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GOETHE'S FAUST

DR. ANSTER'S TRANSLATION



EDITOR'S NOTE

In one of his remarkable essays Carlyle wrote : "*Faust* is emphatically a work of art, a work matured in the mysterious depths of a vast and wonderful mind. . . . *Faust* is to be read not once but many times, if we would understand it ; every line, every word, has its purport ; and only in such minute inspection will the essential significance of the poem display itself."

It must, therefore, be left to each reader of Goethe's masterpiece to make of it what he will. The poet himself admitted that there is no single fundamental idea underlying it. "They come and ask," he once remarked to his friends, "'what idea I mean to embody in my *Faust*?' as if I knew myself and could inform them. '*From Heaven, through the World, to Hell*,' would indeed be something ; but this is no idea, only a course of action."

In a general sense it may be said that *Faust* depicts the struggles of the human soul against the mean and sordid things of life. It is the story of a noble-minded searcher after Truth who "has quitted the ways of vulgar men, without light to guide him on a better way."

Goethe finished the first part of *Faust* in 1801, and the second part in July, 1831, only nine months before his death at the age of 81. Dr. Anster's translation of the first part was published in 1835, and was commended by Goethe's English biographer, George Henry Lewes, as "a brilliant paraphrase."



GOETHE'S FAUST

TRANSLATED BY
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PRELUDE AT THE THEATRE

MANAGER. DRAMATIC POET. MR. MERRYMAN.

Manager. My two good friends, on whom I have depended,
At all times to assist me and advise ;
Aid your old friend once more—to-night he tries
(And greatly fears the fate that may attend it)
For German lands a novel enterprise.
To please the public I am most desirous ;
“Live and let live,” has ever been their maxim,
Gladly they pay the trifle that we tax 'em,
And gratitude should with new zeal inspire us.
Our temporary theatre's erected,
Planks laid, posts raised, and something is expected.
Already have the audience ta'en their station,
With eye-brows lifted up in expectation ;
Thoughtful and tranquil all—with hopes excited,
Disposed to be amused—amazed—delighted !
I know the people's taste—their whims—caprices,
Could always get up popular new pieces ;
But never have I been before so harassed
As now—so thoroughly perplexed, embarrassed !
Every one reads so much of every thing :
The books they read are not the best, 'tis true :
But then they are for ever reading—reading !
This being so, how can we hope to bring
Any thing out, that shall be good and new ?
What chance of now as formerly succeeding ?

How I delight to see the people striving
To force their way into our crowded booth,
Pouring along, and fighting, nail and tooth,
Digging with elbows, through the passage driving,
As if it were St. Peter's gate, and leading
To something more desirable than Eden ;

Long before four, while daylight's strong as ever,
 All hurrying to the box of the receiver,
 Breaking their necks for tickets—thrusting—jamming,
 As at a baker's door in time of famine!

On men so various in their disposition,
 So different in manners—rank—condition;
 How is a miracle like this effected?
 The poet—he alone is the magician.
 On thee, my friend, we call—from thee expect it.

Poet. Oh, tell me not of the tumultuous crowd,
 My powers desert me in the noisy throng;
 Hide, hide from me the multitude, whose loud
 And dizzy whirl would hurry me along
 Against my will; and lead me to some lone
 And silent vale—some scene in fairy-land,
 There only will the poet's heart expand,
 Surrendered to the impulses of song,
 Lost in delicious visions of its own,
 Where Love and Friendship o'er the heart at rest
 Watch through the flowing hours, and we are blest!

Thoughts by the soul conceived in silent joy,
 Sounds often muttered by the timid voice,
 Tried by the nice ear, delicate of choice,
 Till we at last are pleased, or self-deceived,
 The whole a rabble's madness may destroy;
 And this, when, after toil of many years,
 Touched and retouched, the perfect piece appears
 To challenge praise, or win unconscious tears,
 As the vain heart too easily believed;
 Some sparkling, showy thing, got up in haste,
 Brilliant and light, will catch the passing taste.
 The truly great, the genuine, the sublime
 Wins its slow way in silence; and the bard,
 Unnoticed long, receives from after-time
 The imperishable wreath, his best, his sole reward!

Mr. Merry. Enough of this cold cant of future ages,
 And men hereafter doting on your pages;
 To prattle thus of other times is pleasant,
 And all the while neglect our own, the Present.
 Why, what if I too—Mister Merryman—
 In my vocation acted on your plan?

If on the unborn we squander our exertion,
 Who will supply the living with diversion ?
 And, clamour as you, authors, may about it,
 They want amusement—will not go without it ;
 Just look at me, a fine young dashing fellow—
 My very face works wonders, let me tell you ;—
 Now my way, for your guidance I may mention—
 Please but yourself, and feel no apprehension.
 The crowd will share the feelings of the poet,
 The praise he seeks they liberally bestow it
 The more that come, the better for the writer.
 Each flash of wit is farther felt—seems brighter,
 And every little point appreciated,
 By some one in the circle over-rated,
 All is above its value estimated :
 Take courage then,—come—now for a *chef-d'œuvre*—
 To make a name—to live, and live for ever—
 Call Fancy up, with her attendant troop,
 Reason and Judgment, Passion, Melancholy,
 Wit, Feeling, and among the choral group
 Do not forget the little darling, Folly !

Manager. But above all, give them enough of action ;
 He who gives most, will give most satisfaction ;
 They come to see a *show*—no work whatever,
 Unless it be a show, can win their favour ;
 Then, as they wish it, let them gape and stare ;—
 Crowd scene on scene—enough and still to spare.
 A show is what they want ; they love and pay for it ;
 Spite of its serious parts, sit through a play for it ;
 And he who gives one is a certain favourite ;
 Would you please many, you must give good measure ;
 Then each finds something in't to yield him pleasure ;
 The more you give the greater sure your chance is
 To please, by varying scenes, such various fancies.
 The interest of a piece, no doubt, increases
 Divided thus, and broken into pieces.
 We want a dish to hit the common taste ;
 Then hash it up and serve it out in haste !
 And, for my part, methinks it little matters :
 Though you may call your work a finished whole,
 The public soon will tear this whole to tatters,
 And but on piecemeal parts their praises dole.

Poet. You cannot think how very mean a task,

How humbling to the genuine artist's mind,
 To furnish such a drama as you ask :
 The poor pretender's bungling tricks, I find,
 Are now established as the rules of trade,—
 Receipts—by which successful plays are made !

Manager. Such an objection is of little weight
 Against my reasoning. If a person chooses
 To work effectively, no doubt he uses
 The instrument that's most appropriate.
 Your play may—for your audience—be too good ;—
 Coarse lumpish logs are they of clumsy wood—
 Blocks—with the hatchet only to be hewed !—
 One comes to drive away ennui or spleen ;
 Another, with o'erloaded paunch from table ;
 A third, than all the rest less tolerable,
 From reading a review or magazine.
 Hither all haste, anticipate delight,
 As to a Masque, desire each face illuming,
 And each, some novel character assuming,
 Place for awhile their own half out of sight.
 The ladies, too, tricked out in brilliant gear,
 Themselves ambitious actresses appear,
 And, though unpaid, are still performers here.
 What do you dream in your poetic pride ?
 Think you a full house can be satisfied
 And every auditor an ardent cheerer ?
 Pray, only look at them a little nearer ;
 One half are cold spectators, inattentive ;
 The other dead to every fine incentive ;
 One fellow's thinking of a game of cards ;
 One on a wild night of intoxication :
 Why court for such a set the kind regards
 Of the coy Muse—her highest fascination ?
 I tell thee only, give enough—enough ;
 Still more and more—no matter of what stuff ;
 You cannot go astray ; let all your views
 Be only for the moment to amuse,
 To keep them in amazement or distraction ;
 Man is incapable of satisfaction.
 Why, what affects you thus—is't inspiration ?
 A reverie ?—ah ! can it be vexation ?

Poet. Go, and elsewhere some fitter servant find ;
 What ! shall the poet squander then away,

For thy poor purposes, himself, his mind.
 Profane the gift, which Nature, when she gave
 To him, to him entrusted for mankind,
 —Their birthright—thy poor bidding to obey,
 And sink into an humble trading slave ?
 Whence is his power all human hearts to win,
 And why can nothing his proud march oppose,
 As through all elements the conqueror goes ?
 Oh, is it not the harmony within,
 The music, that hath for its dwelling-place
 His own rich soul ?—the heart that can receive
 Again into itself, again embrace
 The world it clothed with beauty and bade live ?
 With unregarding hand when Nature throws
 Upon the spindle the dull length of thread,
 That on, still on, in weary sameness flows,
 When all things, that in unison agreeing,
 Should join to form the happy web of Being,
 Are tangled in inextricable strife :
 Who can awake the blank monotony
 To measured order ? Who upon the dead
 Unthinking chaos breathe the charm of life,
 Restore the dissonant to harmony
 • And bid the jarring individual be
 A chord, that, in the general consecration,
 Bears part with all in musical relation ?
 Who to the tempest's rage can give a voice
 Like human passion ? bid the serious mind
 Glow with the colouring of the sunset hours ?
 Who in the dear path scatter spring's first flowers,
 When wanders forth the ladye of his choice ?
 Who of the valueless green leaves can bind
 A wreath—the artist's proudest ornament—
 Or, round the conquering hero's brow entwined
 The best reward his country can present ?
 Whose voice is fame ? who gives us to inherit
 Olympus, and the loved Elysian field ?
 The soul of man sublimed—man's soaring spirit
 Seen in the poet, gloriously revealed.

Mr. Merry. A poet yet should regulate his fancies,
 Like that of life should get up his romances ;
 First a chance meeting—then the young folk tarry
 Together—toy and trifle, sigh and marry,

Are link'd for ever, scarcely half intending it;
 Once met—'tis fixed—no changing and no mending it.
 Thus a romance runs: fortune, then reverses;
 Rapture, then coldness; bridal dresses—hearses;
 The lady dying—letters from the lover,
 And, ere you think of it, the thing is over.
 Shift your scenes rapidly; write fast and gaily,
 Give, in your play, the life we witness daily;
 The life which all men live, yet few men notice,
 Yet which will please ('tis very strange, but so 'tis),
 Will please, when forced again on their attention,
 More than the wonders of remote invention;
 Glimmerings of truth—calm sentiment—smart strictures—
 Actors in bustle—clouds of moving pictures—
 The young will crowd to see a work, revealing
 Their own hearts to themselves; in solitude
 Will feast on the remembered visions—stealing
 For frenzied passion its voluptuous food:
 Unbidden smiles and tears unconscious start.
 For oh! the secrets of the poet's art,
 What are they but the dreams of the young heart?
 Oh! 'tis the young enjoy the poet's mood,
 Float with him on imagination's wing,
 Think all his thoughts, are his in everything,
 Are, while they dream not of it, all they see:
 Youth—youth is the true time for sympathy.
 This is the sort of drink to take the town;
 Flavour it to their taste, they gulp it down.
 Your true admirer is the generous spirit,
 Unformed, unspoiled, he feels all kindred merit
 As if of his own being it were part,
 And growing with the growth of his own heart;
 Feels gratitude, because he feels that truth
 Is taught him by the poet—this is Youth;
 Nothing can please your *grown* ones, they're so knowing,
 And no one thanks the poet but the growing.
Poet. Give me, oh! give me back the days
 When I—I too—was young—
 And felt, as they now feel, each coming hour
 New consciousness of power.
 Oh happy, happy time, above all praise!
 Then thoughts on thoughts and crowding fancies sprung,
 And found a language in unbidden lays;

Unintermitted streams from fountains ever flowing.

Then, as I wander'd free,

In every field, for me

Its thousand flowers were blowing !

A veil through which I did not see,

A thin veil o'er the world was thrown,

In every bud a mystery ;

Magic in everything unknown :—

The fields, the grove, the air was haunted,

And all that age has disenchanted.

Yes ! give me—give me back the days of youth,

Poor, yet how rich !—my glad inheritance

The inextinguishable love of truth,

While life's realities were all romance—

Give me, oh ! give youth's passions unconfined,

The rush of joy that felt almost like pain,

Its hate, its love, its own tumultuous mind ;—

Give me my youth again !

Mr. Merry. Why, my dear friend, for youth thus sigh
and prattle,

'Twould be a very good thing in a battle ;

Or on your arm if a fine girl were leaning,

Then, I admit, the wish would have some meaning ;

In running for a bet, to clear the distance,

A young man's sinews would be some assistance ;

Or if, after a dance, a man was thinking

Of reeling out the night in glorious drinking ;

But you have only among chords, well known

Of the familiar harp, with graceful finger

Freely to stray at large, or fondly linger,

Courting some wandering fancies of your own ;

While, with capricious windings and delays,

Loitering, or lost in an enchanted maze

Of sweet sounds, the rich melody, at will

Gliding, here rests, here indolently strays,

Is ever free, yet evermore obeys

The hidden guide, that journeys with it still.

This is, old gentleman, your occupation.

Nor think that it makes less our veneration.

" Age," says the song, " the faculties bewildering,

Renders men childish "—no ! it finds them children.

Man. Come, come, no more of this absurd inventory
Of flattering phrases—courteous—complimentary.

You both lose time in words unnecessary,
Playing with language thus at fetch and carry ;
Think not of tuning now or preparation,
Strike up, my boy—no fear—no hesitation,
Till you commence no chance of inspiration.
But once assume the poet—then the fire
From heaven will come to kindle and inspire.
Strong drink is what we want to gull the people,
A hearty, brisk, and animating tippie ;
Come, come, no more delay, no more excuses,
The stuff we ask you for, at once produce us.
Lose this day loitering—'twill be the same story
To-morrow—and the next more dilatory ;
Then indecision brings its own delays,
And days are lost lamenting o'er lost days.
Are you in earnest ? seize this very minute—
What you can do, or dream you can, begin it,
Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.
Only engage, and then the mind grows heated—
Begin it, and the work will be completed !
You know our German bards, like bold adventurers,
Bring out whate'er they please, and laugh at censors,
Then do not think to-day of sparing scenery—
Command enough of dresses and machinery ;
Use as you please—fire, water, thunder, levin—
The greater and the lesser lights of heaven.
Squander away the stars at your free pleasure,
And build up rocks and mountains without measure.
Of birds and beasts we've plenty here to lavish,
Come, cast away all apprehensions slavish—
Strut, on our narrow stage, with lofty stature,
As moving through the circle of wide nature.
With swiftest speed, in calm thought weighing well
Each movement—move from heaven through earth to
hell.

PROLOGUE IN HEAVEN

THE LORD. THE HEAVENLY HOSTS. *Afterwards*
MEPHISTOPHELES

The THREE ARCHANGELS come forward

Raphael. The sun, as in the ancient days,
'Mong sister stars in rival song,
His destined path observes, obeys,
And still in thunder rolls along :
New strength and full beatitude
The angels gather from his sight,
Mysterious all—yet all is good,
All fair as at the birth of light !

Gabriel. Swift, unimaginably swift,
Soft spins the earth, and glories bright
Of mid-day Eden change and shift
To shades of deep and spectral night.
The vexed sea foams—waves leap and moan,
And chide the rocks with insult hoarse,
And wave and rock are hurried on,
And suns and stars in endless course.

Michael. And winds with winds mad war maintain
From sea to land, from land to sea ;
And heave round earth, a living chain
Of interwoven agency.—
Guides of the bursting thunder-peal,
Fast lightnings flash with deadly ray,
While, Lord, with Thee Thy servants feel
Calm effluence of abiding day.

The Three. New strength and full beatitude
The angels gather from thy sight ;
Mysterious all, yet all is good,
All fair as at the birth of light.

Meph. Since Thou, O Lord, dost visit us once more,
To ask how things are going on, and since

You have received me kindly heretofore,
 I venture to the levee of my prince.
 Pardon me, if I fail, after the sort
 Of bending courtiers here, to pay my court ;
 The company is far too fine for me.
 They smile with scorn such folk in heaven to see.
 High hymns and solemn words are not my forte.
 Pathos from me would look too like a joke ;
 Words, that from others had set angels weeping,
 To laughter would your very self provoke,
 If laughter were not wholly out of keeping.
 Nothing of suns or worlds have I to say,
 I only see how men fret on their day ;
 The little god of earth is still the same
 Strange thing he was, when first to life he came ;
 That life were somewhat better, if the light
 Of heaven had not been given to spoil him quite.
 Reason he calls it—see its blessed fruit,
 Than the brute beast man is a beastlier brute ;
 He seems to me, if I may venture on
 Such a comparison, to be like one
 Of those long lank-legged grasshoppers, whose song
 The self-same creak, chirps, as they bound along,
 Monotonous and restless in the grass,
 'Twere well 'twas in grass always ; but, alas,
 They thrust their snouts in every filth they pass.

The Lord. Hast thou no more than this to say,
 Thou, who complainest every day ?
 Are all things evil in thy sight ?
 Does nothing on the earth move right ?

Meph. Not anything, my lord—poor men so fervent
 And foolish are—I almost feel compassion.

The Lord. Dost thou know Faust ?

Meph.

The doctor ?

The Lord.

Yes ; my servant.

Meph. Truly, he serves in a peculiar fashion ;
 Child though he be of human birth,
 His food and drink are not of earth.
 Foolish—even he at times will feel
 The folly in such hopes to deal :—
 His fancies hurry him afar ;
 Of heaven he asks its highest star ;
 Self-willed and spoiled, in mad pursuit,

Of earth demands its fairest fruit ;
 And all that both can give supplied,
 Behold him still unsatisfied !

The Lord. Yes ; for he serves in a perplexing scene,
 That oft misleads him. Still his will is right ;
 Soon comes the time to lead him into light.
 Now is the first prophetic green,
 The hopes and promises of spring,
 The unformed bud and blossoming ;
 And he who reared the tree and knows the clime
 Will seek and find fair fruit in fitting time.

Meph. What will you wager you don't lose him yet,
 With all his promise ? Had I only freedom
 On my own path with easy lure to lead him,
 I've not a doubt of it I win the bet.

The Lord. As long as on the earth endures his life
 To deal with him have full and free permission ;
 Man's hour on earth is weakness, error, strife.

• *Meph.* Cheerfully I agree to the condition ;
 I have no fancy for the dead : your youth,
 With full fresh cheeks, tastes daintier to my tooth.
 Should a corpse call, the answer at my house
 Is, " Not at home." My play is cat and mouse.

The Lord. Be it permitted : from his source divert
 And draw this Spirit captive down with thee ;
 Till baffled and in shame thou dost admit,
 " A good man, clouded though his senses be
 By error, is no willing slave to it."
 His consciousness of good, will it desert
 The good man ?—yea, even in his darkest hours
 Still doth he war with Darkness and the Powers
 Of Darkness ;—for the light he cannot see
 Still round him feels ;—and, if he be not free,
 Struggles against this strange captivity.

Meph. Aye ! feelings that have no abiding—
 Short struggles—give him to my guiding—
 I cannot have a doubt about the bet.
 Oh ! in what triumph shall I crow at winning !
 Dust he shall eat, and eat with pleasure yet,
 Like that first Snake in my poor heraldry,
 Who has been eating it from the beginning.

The Lord. Here too take your own course—you are
 quite free

In the concern,—with anything but loathing
I look on folk like you. My work demands
Such servants. Of the Spirits of Denial
The pleasantest, that figures in Man's Trial,
Is Old Iniquity in his Fool's clothing ;
The Vice is never heavy upon hands ;
Without the Knave the Mystery were nothing,
For Man's activity soon tires,
(A lazy being at the best)
And sting and spur requires.
In indolent enjoyment Man would live,
And this companion, whom I therefore give,
Goads, urges, drives—is devil and cannot rest ;
But ye, pure sons of God, be yours the sight
Of Beauty, each hour brighter and more bright !
The Life, in all around, below, above,
That ever lives and works—the Infinite
Enfold you in the happy bonds of love !
And all that flows unfixed and undefined
In glimmering phantasy before the mind,
Bid Thought's enduring chain for ever bind !

[*Heaven closes. The ARCHANGELS disperse*

Meph. [*alone*]. I'm very glad to have it in my power
To see him now and then ; he is so civil ;
I rather like our good old governor—
Think only of his speaking to the Devil !

THE TRAGEDY OF FAUST

FIRST PART

I

NIGHT

SCENE, *A high-arched, narrow, Gothic chamber*
FAUST at his desk—restless

Faust. Alas ! I have explored
Philosophy, and Law, and Medicine ;
And over deep Divinity have pored,
Studying with ardent and laborious zeal ;
And here I am at last, a very fool,
• With useless learning curst,
No wiser than at first !
Here am I—boast and wonder of the school :
Magister, Doctor, and I lead
These ten years past, my pupils' creed ;
Winding, by dexterous words, with ease,
Their opinions as I please.
And now to feel that nothing can be known !
This is a thought that burns into my heart.
I have been more acute than all these triflers,
Doctors and authors, priests, philosophers ;
Have sounded all the depths of every science.
Scruples, or the perplexity of doubt,
Torment me not, nor fears of hell or devil.
But I have lost all peace of mind :
Whate'er I knew, or thought I knew,
Seems now unmeaning or untrue.
The fancy too has died away,
The hope, that I might, in my day,
Instruct, and elevate mankind.
Thus robbed of learning's only pleasure,
Without dominion, rank, or treasure,
Without one joy that earth can give,
Could dog—were I a dog—so live ?
Therefore to magic, with severe

And patient toil, have I applied,
Despairing of all other guide,
That from some Spirit I might hear
Deep truths, to others unrevealed,
And mysteries from mankind sealed ;
And never more, with shame of heart,
Teach things, of which I know no part.
Oh, for a glance into the earth !
To see below its dark foundations,
Life's embryo seeds before their birth
And Nature's silent operations.
Thus end at once this vexing fever
Of words—mere words—repeated ever.

Beautiful Moon !—Ah ! would that now,
For the last time, thy lovely beams
Shone on my troubled brow !
Oft by this desk, at middle night,
I have sat gazing for thy light,
Wearied with search, through volumes endless,
I sate 'mong papers—crowded books,
Alone—when thou, friend of the friendless,
Camest smiling in, with soothing looks.
Oh, that upon some headland height
I now were wandering in thy light !
Floating with Spirits, like a shadow,
Round mountain-cave, o'er twilight meadow ;
And from the toil of thought relieved,
No longer sickened and deceived,
In thy soft dew could bathe, and find
Tranquillity and health of mind.

Alas ! and am I in the gloom
Still of this cursed dungeon room ?
Where even heaven's light, so beautiful,
Through the stained glass comes thick and dull ;
'Mong volumes heaped from floor to ceiling,
Scrolls with book-worms through them stealing ;
Dreary walls, where dusty paper
Bears deep stains of smoky vapour ;
Glasses, instruments, all lumber
Of this kind the place encumber ;
All a man of learning gathers,

All bequeathed me by my fathers,
 Crucibles from years undated,
 Chairs of structure antiquated,
 Are in strange confusion hurled !
 Here, Faustus, is thy world—a world !
 Still dost thou ask, why in thy breast
 The sick heart flutters ill at rest ?
 Why a dull sense of suffering
 Deadens life's current at the spring ?
 From living nature thou hast fled
 To dwell 'mong fragments of the dead ;
 And for the lovely scenes which Heaven
 Hath made man for, to man hath given ;
 Hast chosen to pore o'er mouldering bones
 Of brute and human skeletons !

Away—away and far away !
 This book, where secret spells are scanned,
 Traced by Nostradam's own hand,
 Will be thy strength and stay :
 The courses of the stars to thee
 No longer are a mystery ;
 The thoughts of Nature thou canst seek,
 As Spirits with their brothers speak.
 It is, it is the planet hour
 Of thy own being ; light, and power,
 And fervour to the soul are given,
 As proudly it ascends its heaven.
 To ponder here, o'er spells and signs,
 Symbolic letters, circles, lines ;
 And from their actual use refrain,
 Were time and labour lost in vain :
 Then ye, whom I feel floating near me,
 Spirits, answer, ye who hear me !

*[He opens the book, and lights upon the
 sign of the MACROCOSMUS]*

Ha ! what new life divine, intense,
 Floods in a moment every sense ;
 I feel the dawn of youth again,
 Visiting each glowing vein !
 Was it a god—a god who wrote these signs ?
 The tumults of my soul are stilled,
 My withered heart with rapture filled :

In virtue of the magic lines,
 The secret powers that Nature mould.
 Their essence and their acts unfold—
 Am I a god?—Can mortal sight
 Enjoy, endure this burst of light?
 How clear these silent characters!
 All Nature present to my view,
 And each creative act of hers—
 And is the glorious vision true?
 The wise man's words at length are plain,
 Whose sense so long I sought in vain:
 "The Worlde of Spirits no Clouds conceale;
 Man's Eye is dim, it cannot see.
 Man's Heart is dead, it cannot feele.
 Thou, who wouldst knowe the Things that be,
 The Heart of Earth in the Sunrise red,
 Bathe, till its Stains of Earth are fled."

[He looks over the sign attentively]

Oh! how the spell before my sight
 Brings nature's hidden ways to light:
 See! all things with each other blending—
 Each to all its being lending—
 All on each in turn depending—
 Heavenly ministers descending—
 And again to heaven up-tending—
 Floating, mingling, interweaving—
 Rising, sinking, and receiving
 Each from each, while each is giving
 On to each, and each relieving
 Each, the pails of gold, the living
 Current through the air is heaving;
 Breathing blessings, see them bending,
 Balanced worlds from change defending,
 While everywhere diffused is harmony unending!

Oh! what a vision—but a vision only!
 Can heart of man embrace
 Illimitable Nature?
 Fountain of life, forth-welling;
 The same in every place;
 That dost support and cheer
 Wide heaven, and teeming earth, and every creature

That hath therein its dwelling,
 Oh! could the blighted soul but feel thee near!
 To thee still turns the withered heart,
 To thee the spirit, scared and lonely,
 Childlike, would seek the sweet restorative;
 On thy maternal bosom feed and live.
 I ask a solace thou dost not impart;
 The food I hunger for thou dost not give!

*[He turns over the leaves of the book impatiently, till his
 eye rests on the sign of the Earth-Spirit]*

How differently this sign affects my frame!
 Spirit of Earth! my nature is the same,
 Or near akin to thine!
 How fearlessly I read this sign!
 And feel even now new powers are mine:
 While my brain burns, as though with wine:
 Give me the agitated strife,
 The madness of the world of life;
 I feel within my soul the birth
 Of strength, enabling me to bear,
 And thoughts, impelling me to share
 The fortunes, good or evil, of the Earth;
 To battle with the Tempest's breath,
 Or plunge where Shipwreck grinds his teeth.

All around grows cold and cloudy,
 The moon withdraws her ray;
 The lamp's loose flame is shivering,
 It fades, it dies away.
 Ha! round my brow what sparkles ruddy
 In trembling light are quivering?
 And, to and fro,
 Stream sheets of flame, in fearful play,
 Rolled and unrolled,
 In crimson fold,
 They float and flow!
 From the vaulted space above,
 A shuddering horror seems to move
 Down,—down upon me creeps and seizes
 The life's blood, in its grasp that freezes;
 'Tis thou—I feel thee, Spirit, near,
 Thou hast heard the spell, and thou
 Art hovering around me now;

Spirit ! to my sight appear,
 How my heart is torn in sunder—
 All my thoughts convulsed with wonder—
 Every faculty and feeling
 Strained to welcome thy revealing.
 Spirit, my heart, my heart is given to thee,
 Though death may be the price, I cannot choose but see !
*[He grasps the book, and pronounces the sign of the
 Spirit mysteriously ; a red flame is seen playing
 about, and in the flame the SPIRIT*

Spirit. Who calls me ?

Faust [*averting his face*]. Form of horror, hence !

Spirit. Hither from my distant sphere,
 Thou hast compelled me to appear ;
 Hast sucked me down, and dragged me thence,
 With importuning violence ;
 And now——

Faust. I shudder, overpowered with fear.

Spirit. Panting, praying to look on me,
 My voice to listen, my face to see,
 Thy soul's strong mandate bends me down to thee.
 Here am I—here and now, what fear
 Seizes thee ?—thee—the more than Man ?

Where the strong soul, that could dare

Summon us, Spirits ? Where

The soul, that could conceive, and plan,
 Yea, and create its world ; whose pride
 The bounds which limit Man defied,
 Heaved with high sense of inborn powers,
 Nor feared to mete its strength with ours.
 Where art thou, Faust ? and, were the accents thine,
 That rang to me ? the soul that pressed itself to mine ?
 Art thou the same, whose senses thus are shattered,
 Whose very being in my breath is scattered
 Shuddering thro' all life's depths—poor writhing worm !

Faust. Creature of flame, shall I grow pale before thee ?
 I am he, I called thee, I am Faust, thy equal !

Spirit. In the currents of life, in the tempests of motion,
 In the fervour of act, in the fire, in the storm,
 Hither and thither,
 Over and under,
 Wend I and wander.
 Birth and the grave

Limitless ocean,
Where the restless wave
Undulates ever,
Under and over
Their seething strife,
Heaving and weaving
The changes of life.

At the whirring loom of Time unawed,
I work the living mantle of God.

Faust. Swift Spirit, that ever round the wide world
wendest !

How near I feel to thee !

Spirit. Man, thou art as the Spirit, whom thou comprehendest,

Not me.

[*Vanishes*]

Faust [overpowered with confusion]. Not thee !

Whom then ? I ! image of the Deity !

And not even such as thee !

[*A knock*]

'Sdeath ! 'tis this pupil lad of mine—
He comes my airy guests to banish.
This elevating converse dread,
These visions, dazzlingly outspread
Before my senses, all will vanish
At the formal fellow's tread !

Enter WAGNER, in dressing-gown and night-cap—a lamp in his hand. FAUST turns round, displeased

Wagner. Forgive me, but I thought you were declaiming.

Been reciting some Greek tragedy, no doubt ;
I wish to improve myself in this same art ;
'Tis a most useful one. I've heard it said,
An actor might give lessons to a priest.

Faust. Yes ! when your priest's an actor, as may happen.

Wagner. Oh ! if a man shuts himself up for ever
In his dull study ; if one sees the world
Never, unless on some chance holyday,
Looks at it from a distance, through a telescope,
How can we learn to sway the minds of men
By eloquence ? to rule them, or persuade ?

Faust. If feeling does not prompt, in vain you' strive ;
 If from the soul the language does not come,
 By its own impulse, to impel the hearts
 Of hearers, with communicated power,
 In vain you strive—in vain you study earnestly.
 Toil on for ever ; piece together fragments ;
 Cook up your broken scraps of sentences,
 And blow, with puffing breath, a struggling light,
 Glimmering confusedly now, now cold in ashes ;
 Startle the school-boys with your metaphors ;
 And, if such food may suit your appetite,
 Win the vain wonder of applauding children !
 But never hope to stir the hearts of men,
 And mould the souls of many into one,
 By words which come not native from the heart !

Wagner. Expression, graceful utterance, is the first
 And best acquirement of the orator.
 This do I feel, and feel my want of it !

Faust. Be honest, if you would be eloquent ;
 Be not a chiming fool with cap and bells ;
 Reason and genuine feeling want no arts
 Of utterance—ask no toil of elocution :
 And when you are in earnest, do you need
 A search for words ? Oh ! these fine holyday phrases,
 In which you robe your worn-out common-places,
 These scraps of paper which you crimp and curl,
 And twist into a thousand idle shapes,
 These filigree ornaments are good for nothing,
 Cost time and pains, please few, impose on no one ;
 Are unrefreshing, as the wind that whistles,
 In autumn, 'mong the dry and wrinkled leaves.

Wagner. The search of knowledge is a weary one,
 And life how short ! *Ars longa, Vita brevis !*
 How often have the heart and brain, o'er-tasked,
 Shrunk back despairing from enquiries vain !
 Oh ! with what difficulty are the means
 Acquired, that lead us to the springs of knowledge !
 And when the path is found, ere we have trod
 Half the long way—poor wretches ! we must die !

Faust. Are mouldy records, then, the holy springs,
 Whose healing waters still the thirst within ?

Oh ! never yet hath mortal drunk
 A draught restorative,

That welled not from the depths of his own soul !

Wagner. Pardon me—but you will at least confess
That 'tis delightful to transfuse yourself
Into the spirit of the ages past ;
To see how wise men thought in olden time,
And how far we outstep their march in knowledge.

Faust. Oh yes ! as far as from the earth to heaven !
To us, my friend, the times that are gone by
Are a mysterious book, sealed with seven seals ;
That which you call the spirit of ages past
Is but, in truth, the spirit of some few authors
In which those ages are beheld reflected,
With what distortion strange heaven only knows.
Oh ! often, what a toilsome thing it is
This study of thine, at the first glance we fly it.
A mass of things confusedly heaped together ;
A lumber-room of dusty documents,
Furnished with all-approved court-precedents,
And old traditional maxims ! History !
Facts dramatized say rather—action—plot—
Sentiment, every thing the writer's own,
As it best fits the web-work of his story,
With here and there a solitary fact
Of consequence, by those grave chroniclers,
Pointed with many a moral apophthegm,
And wise old saws, learned at the puppet-shows.

Wagner. But then the world, man's heart and mind, are
things

Of which 'twere well that each man had some knowledge.

Faust. Why yes !—they call it *knowledge*. Who may
dare

To name things by their real names ? The few
Who did know something, and were weak enough
To expose their hearts unguarded—to expose
Their views and feelings to the eyes of men,
They have been nailed to crosses—thrown to flames.
Pardon me ; but 'tis very late, my friend ;
Too late to hold this conversation longer.

Wagner. How willingly would I sit up for ever,
Thus to converse with you so learnedly.
To-morrow, as a boon on Easter-day,
You must permit me a few questions more :
I have been diligent in all my studies ;

Given my whole heart and time to the pursuit;
 And I know much, but would know every thing. [Exit
Faust [alone]. How hope abandons not the humblest
 mind!

Poor lad! he clings to learning's poorest forms,
 Delves eagerly for fancied gold to find
 Worms—dust; is happy among dust and worms!

Man's voice, and such a man's, and did it dare
 Breathe round me here, where Spirits thronged the air?
 And yet, poor humble creature that thou art,
 How do I thank thee from my very heart!
 When my senses sank beneath
 Despair, and sought relief in death;
 When life within me dying shivered,
 Thy presence from the trance delivered.
 Oh, while I stood before that giant stature,
 How dwarfed I felt beneath its nobler nature!

Image of God! I thought that I had been
 Sublimed from earth, no more a child of clay,
 That, shining gloriously with Heaven's own day,
 I had beheld Truth's countenance serene.
 High above cherubs—above all that serve,
 Raised up immeasurably—every nerve
 Of Nature's life seemed animate with mine;
 Her very veins with blood from my veins filled—
 Her spirit moving as my spirit willed;
 Then did I in creations of my own
 (Oh, is not man in every thing divine!)
 Build worlds—or bidding them no longer be—
 Exert, enjoy a sense of deity—
 Doomed for such dreams presumptuous to atone;
 All by one word of thunder overthrown!

Spirit, I may not mete myself with thee!
 True, I compelled thee to appear,
 But had no power to hold thee here.
 Oh! in that rapturous moment how I felt—
 How little and how great! and thus to be
 With savage scorn fiercely flung back upon
 The lot to mortals dealt.
 And its uncertainties! again the prey

Of deep disquietude ! with none
To guide me on my way,
Or shew me what to shun !
That impulse goads me on—shall I obey ?
Alas ! 'tis not our sufferings alone,
But even our acts obstruct us and delay
Our life's free flow.

To what man's spirit conceives
Of purest, best, some foreign growth still cleaves,
We seize what this world gives of good, and deem
All Better a deception and a dream.
High feelings, that in us to life gave birth,
Are numbed and wither in the coil of earth.

How boldly, in the days of youthful Hope,
Imagination spreads her wing unchecked,
Deeming all things within her ample scope,
To the Eternal ! and how small a space
Suffices her when Fortune flees apace,
And all we loved in life's strange whirl is wrecked.
Deep in the breast Care builds her nest,
Rocks restlessly and scares away all rest.
Some secret sorrow still the envious one
Keeps stirring at till peace and joy are gone.
Each day she masks her in some new disguise,
Each day with some new trick the temper tries,
Is House and Homestead, Child and Wife,
Fire, Water, Poison, Dagger-knife.
Evils that never come disquiet thee
Evermore mourning losses not to be !

I am not like the gods. No ! no ! I tremble,
Feeling impressed upon my mind the thought,
Of the mean worm whose nature I resemble.
'Tis dust, and lives in dust, and the chance tread
Crushes the wretched reptile into nought.

Is this not dust in which I live ?
This prison-place, what can it give
Of life or comfort ? wheresoe'er
The sick eye turns, it sees one tier—
Along the blank high wall—of shelves

And gloomy volumes, which themselves
Are dust and lumber ; and the scrolls
That crowd the hundred pigeon-holes
And crevices of that old case—
That darkens and confines the space
Already but too small—'mong these
What can life be but a disease ?
Here housed in dust, with grub and moth,
I sicken—Mind and body both.
—Shall I find here the cure I ask,
Resume the edifying task
Of reading, in a thousand pages,
That care-worn man has, in all ages,
Sowed Vanity to reap Despair ?
That one, mayhap, has here and there
Been less unhappy ?

Hollow Skull,
I almost fancy I divine
A meaning in thy spectral smile.
Saith it not that thy brain, like mine,
Still loved, and sought the Beautiful ;
Loved Truth for Truth's own sake ; and sought,
Regardless of aught else the while,
Like mine, the light of cloudless day—
And, in unsatisfying thought
By twilight glimmers led astray,
Like mine at length sank over-wrought ?

Every thing fails me—every thing—
These instruments, do they not all
Mock me ? lathe, cylinder, and ring,
And cog and wheel—in vain I call
On you for aid, ye keys of Science,
I stand before the guarded door
Of Nature ; but it bids defiance
To latch or ward : in vain I prove
Your powers—the strong bolts will not move.
Mysterious, in the blaze of day,
Nature pursues her tranquil way :
The veil she wears, if hand profane
Should seek to raise, it seeks in vain,
Though from her spirit thine receives,
When hushed it listens and believes,

Secrets—revealed, else vainly sought,
Her free gift when man questions not,—
Think not with levers or with screws
To wring them out if she refuse.

Old Furniture—cumbrous and mean !
It is not, has not ever been
Of use to me—why here ? because
My father's furniture it was !
—Old Roll ; and here it still remains,
And soiled with smoke, its very stains
Might count how many a year the light
Hath, from this desk, through the dead night,
Burn'd in its sad lamp, nothing bright !
—'Twere better did I dissipate,
Long since, my little means, than be
Crushed down and cumbered with its weight :
All that thy fathers leave to thee,
At once enjoy it—thus alone
Can man make any thing his own ;
A hindrance all that we employ not—
A burden all that we enjoy not.
He knows, who rightly estimates,
That what the moment can employ,
What it requires and can enjoy,
The moment for itself creates.

What can it be, that thither draws
The eye, and holds it there, as though
The flask a very magnet were ?
And whence, oh, whence this lavish glow,
This lustre of enchanted light,
Pour'd down at once, and every where—
Birth of the moment—like the flood
Of splendour round us, when at night
Breathes moonlight over a wide wood ?

Oh phial !—happy phial !—here
Hope is,—I greet thee,—I revere
Thee as Art's best result—in Thee
Science, and Mind triumphant see,—
Essence of all sweet slumber-dews !
Spirit of all most delicate

Yet deadliest powers!—be thou my friend—
A true friend—thou wilt not refuse
Thine own old master this!—I gaze
On thee—the pain subsides—the weight
That pressed me down less heavy weighs.

I grasp thee—faithful friend art thou:—
Already do I feel the strife
That preyed upon my powers of life
Calmed into peace; and now—and now
The swell, that troubled the clear spring
Of my vexed spirit, ebbs away;
Outspread, like ocean, Life and Day
Shine with a glow of welcoming;—
Calm at my feet the glorious mirror lies,
And tempts to far-off shores, with smiles from other skies!

And, lo! a car of fire to me
Glides softly hither; from within
Come winged impulses, to bear
The child of earth to freer air:
Already do I seem to win
My happy course, from bondage free,
On paths unknown, to climes unknown,
Glad spheres of pure activity!
Powers yet unfelt—worlds yet untrod—
And life, poured every where abroad,
And rapture worthy of a God!
—Worm that thou art, and can it be
Such joy is thine, is given to thee?
Determine only,—'tis thy own;
Say thy firm farewell to the sun,
The kindly sun—its smiling earth—
One moment, one,—and all is done,—
One pang—then comes the second birth!
—Find life where others fear to die;
Take measure of thy strength, and burst—
Burst wide the gate of liberty;
—Show, by man's acts man's spirit durst
Meet God's own eye, and wax not dim;
Stand fearless, face to face with Him!

Shudder not now at that blank cave
Where, in self-torturing disease,

Pale Fancy hears sad Spirits rave,
 And is herself the hell she sees.
 —Press through the strait, where stands Despair
 Guarding it, and the fiery wave
 Boils up,—and know no terror there !
 Determine ;—be of happy cheer
 In this high hour—be thy advance
 The proud step of a triumph-day ;
 —Be firm, and cast away all fear ;—
 And freely,—if such be the chance—
 Flow into nothingness away !

And thou, clear crystal goblet, welcome thou !
 Old friend and faithful, from thy antique case
 Come forth with gay smile now,
 As gently I displace
 The time-stain'd velvet ; years unnumbered,
 Forgotten hast thou slumbered ;
 Once bright at many a festival,
 When, in the old man's hall,
 Old friends were gathered all,
 And thou with mirth didst light grave features up,
 On days of high festivity,
 And family solemnity,
 As each to each passed on the happy cup ;
 Its massy pride, the figures rich and old,
 Of curious carving, and the merry task
 Of each (thus did our pleasant customs ask)
 Who drank, the quaint old symbols to unfold,
 In rhymes made at the moment ; then the mask
 Of serious seeming, as at one long draught
 Each guest the full deep goblet duly quaffed ;
 The old cup, the old customs, the old rhymes,
 All now are with me : all, that of old times
 Can speak, are speaking to my heart ; the nights
 Of boyhood, and their manifold delights ;
 Oh ! never more to gay friend sitting next
 Shall my hand reach thee ; never more from me
 Shall merry rhyme illustrate the old text,
 And into meaning read each mystery ;
 This is a draught that, if the brain still think,
 Will set it thinking in another mood ;
 Old cup, now fill thee with the dark brown flood ;

It is my choice ; I mixed it, and will drink :
 My last draught this on earth I dedicate,
 (And with it be my heart and spirit borne !)
 A festal offering to the rising morn.

[He places the goblet to his lips

Bells heard, and voices in chorus

EASTER HYMN.—*Chorus of ANGELS*

Christ is from the grave arisen,
 Joy is His. For Him the weary
 Earth hath ceased its thralldom dreary,
 And the cares that prey on mortals :
 He hath burst the grave's stern portals ;
 The grave is no prison :
 The Lord hath arisen !

Faust. Oh, those deep sounds, those voices rich and heavenly !

How powerfully they sway the soul, and force
 The cup uplifted from the eager lips !
 Proud bells, and do your peals already ring,
 To greet the joyous dawn of Easter-morn ?
 And ye, rejoicing choristers, already
 Flows forth your solemn song of consolation ?
 That song, which once, from angel lips resounding
 Around the midnight of the grave, was heard,
 The pledge and proof of a new covenant !

HYMN *continued.*—*Chorus of WOMEN*

We laid Him for burial
 'Mong aloes and myrrh ;
 His children and friends
 Laid their dead Master here !
 All wrapt in His grave-dress,
 We left Him in fear—
 Ah ! where shall we seek Him ?
 The Lord is not here !

Chorus of ANGELS

The Lord hath arisen,
 Sorrow no longer ;

Temptation hath tried Him,
 But He was the stronger.
 Happy, happy victory !
 Love, submission, self-denial
 Marked the strengthening agony,
 Marked the purifying trial ;
 The grave is no prison :
 The Lord hath arisen.

Faust. Soft sounds, that breathe of Heaven, most mild,
 most powerful,
 What seek ye here ?—Why will ye come to me
 In dusty gloom immersed ?—Oh ! rather speak
 To hearts of soft and penetrable mould !
 I hear your message, but I have not faith—
 And Miracle is fond Faith's favourite child !
 I cannot force myself into the spheres,
 Where these good tidings of great joy are heard ;
 And yet, from youth familiar with the sounds,
 Even now they call me back again to life ;
 Oh ! once, in boyhood's happy time, Heaven's love
 Showered down upon me, with mysterious kiss
 Hallowing the stillness of the Sabbath-day !
 Feelings restless, incommunicable,
 Yearnings for something that I knew not of,
 Deep meanings in the full tones of the bells
 Mingled—a prayer was burning ecstasy—
 Drove me, a wanderer through lone fields and woods ;
 Then tears rushed hot and fast—then was the birth
 Of a new life and a new world for me ;
 These bells announced the merry sports of youth,
 This music welcomed in the happy spring ;
 And now am I once more a little child,
 And old Remembrance, twining round my heart,
 Forbids this act, and checks my daring steps—
 Then sing ye on—sweet songs that are of Heaven !
 Tears come, and Earth hath won her child again.

HYMN *continued.*—Chorus of DISCIPLES

He, who was buried,
 Hath burst from the grave !
 From death re-assuming

The life that He gave,
Is risen in glory,
Is mighty to save !

And onward—still onward
Arising, ascending,
To the right hand of Power
And Joy never-ending.

Enthroned in brightness,
His labours are over ;
On earth His disciples
Still struggle and suffer !

His children deserted
Disconsolate languish—
Thou art gone, and to glory—
Hast left us in anguish !

Chorus of ANGELS

Christ is arisen,
The Lord hath ascended ;
The dominion of death
And corruption is ended.

Your work of obedience
Haste to begin ;
Break from the bondage
Of Satan and Sin.

In your lives His laws obey
Let love your governed bosoms sway—
Blessings to the poor convey,
To God with humble spirit pray,
To Man His benefits display :
Act thus, and He, your Master dear,
Though unseen, is ever near !

II

BEFORE THE CITY-GATE

Persons of all descriptions strolling out

A Party of Tradesmen. What are you going for in that direction ?

Second Party. We are going to the Hunters'-lodge.

First Party. And we
Are strolling down to the Mill.

A Tradesman. I would advise you
Rather to take a walk to the River Tavern.

A Second. The road to it is not a pleasant one.

Second Party. What are you for ?

A Third. I go with the other party.

A Fourth. Take my advice, and let us come to Burgdorf :

There, any way, we shall be sure of finding
The prettiest girls, and the brownest beer,
And lots of rows in the primest style.

A Fifth. What, boy,
Art at it still ? two drubbings, one would think,
Might satisfy a reasonable man.

I won't go there with you—I hate the place !

Servant Maid. No ! no !—not I—I'll go back to the town.

Another. We'll find him surely waiting at the poplars.

The First. Great good is that to me,—he'll give his arm

To you—and dance with you—and why should I go
For nothing in the world but your amusement ?

The Second. To-day he'll certainly not be alone,
His curly-headed friend will be with him.

Student. Look there—look there—how well those girls
step out—
Come, brother, come let's keep them company.

Stiff beer, biting tobacco, and a girl
In her smart dress, are the best things I know.

Citizen's Daughter. Only look there—what pretty fellows these are!

'Tis quite a shame, when they might have the best
Of company, to see them running after
A pair of vulgar minxes—servant girls.

Second Student [to the first]. Stay, easy—here are two fine girls behind us,

Showily dressed. I know one of them well—
And, I may say, am half in love with her.
Innocent things! with what a modest gait
And shy step they affect to pace; and yet,
For all their bashfulness, they'll take us with them.

First Student. Join them, yourself—not I—I hate restraint.

Let us not lose time with them, or the game escapes,
Give me the girl that gives a man no trouble,
That on the week-days does her week-day work,
And, the day after, work that she loves better.

Citizen. Well, I do not like this new burgomaster.
Not a day passes but he grows more insolent,
Forsooth! presuming on his dignity.
And what good is he to us after all?
The town is growing worse from day to day,
They are more strict upon us now than ever,
And raise continually the rates and taxes.

Beggar [sings].

*Masters good, and ladies bright,
Rosy-cheeked, and richly dressed,
Look upon a wretched sight,
And relieve the poor distressed:
Let me not in vain implore!
Pity me!—with chime and voice
Would I cheer you—let the poor
When all else are glad, rejoice!
I must beg, for I must live.
Help me! blessed they who give!
When all other men are gay
Is the beggar's harvest day.*

Second Citizen. Well! give me, on a saint's day, or a Sunday,

When we have time for it, a tale of war
 And warlike doings far away in Turkey—
 How they are busy killing one another.
 'Tis pleasant to stand gazing from the window,
 Draining your glass at times, and looking on
 The painted barges calmly gliding down
 The easy river. Then the homeward walk
 In the cool evening hour; this makes the heart
 Glad, and at peace with all things and itself.
 Yes! give me peace at home, and peaceful times!
Third Citizen. Ay, so say I—break every head abroad—
 Turn all things topsy-turvy, so they leave us
 Quiet at home.

Old Woman [to the CITIZEN'S DAUGHTERS]. Ha! but
 you are nicely dressed,
 And very pretty creatures—you'll win hearts
 To-day—ay, that you will—only don't look
 So very proud—yes! that is something better—
 I know what my young pets are wishing for,
 And thinking of, and they shall have it too!

Citizen's Daughter. Come, Agatha, come on—I'd not be
 seen
 With the old witch in public; yet she showed me,
 On last St. Andrew's night, in flesh and blood,
 My future lover.

The Other. In the glass she showed
 Me mine. The figure was a soldier's, and
 With him a band of gay bold fellows. Since,
 I have been looking round, and seeking for him,
 But all in vain—'tis folly—he won't come.

Soldier. Towns with turrets, walls, and fences,
 Maidens with their haughty glances.
 These the soldier seeks with ardour,
 Say to conquer which is harder?
 Death and danger he despises,
 When he looks upon the prizes.
 Danger is the soldier's duty.
 And his prize is fame and beauty.

*Rush we, at the trumpet's measure,
 With blithe hearts to death and pleasure;
 How the soldier's blood is warming
 When we think of cities storming!*

*Fortress strong, and maiden tender,
Must alike to us surrender.
Danger is the soldier's duty,
But his prize is fame and beauty.*

Faust. River and rivulet are freed from ice
In Spring's affectionate inspiring smile—
Green are the fields with promise—far away
To the rough hills old Winter hath withdrawn
Strengthless—but still at intervals will send
Light feeble frosts, with drops of diamond white
Mocking a little while the coming bloom—
Still soils with showers of sharp and bitter sleet,
In anger impotent, the earth's green robe ;
But the sun suffers not the lingering snow—
Every where life—every where vegetation
All nature animate with glowing hues—
Or, if one spot be touched not by the spirit
Of the sweet season, there, in colours rich
As trees or flowers, are sparkling human dresses !
Turn round, and from this height look back upon
The town : from its black dungeon gate forth pours,
In thousand parties, the gay multitude,
All happy, all indulging in the sunshine !
All celebrating the Lord's resurrection,
And in themselves exhibiting as 'twere
A resurrection too—so changed are they,
So raised above themselves. From chambers damp
Of poor mean houses—from consuming toil
Laborious—from the work-yard and the shop—
From the imprisonment of walls and roofs,
And the oppression of confining streets,
And from the solemn twilight of dim churches—
All are abroad—all happy in the sun.
Look, only look, with gaiety how active,
Through fields and gardens they disperse themselves !
How the wide water, far as we can see,
Is joyous with innumerable boats !
See, there, one almost sinking with its load,
Parts from the shore ; yonder the hill-top paths
Are sparkling in the distance with gay dresses !
And, hark ! the sounds of joy from the far village !
This is the people's very heaven on earth !

The high, the low, in pleasure all uniting—
Here may I feel that I too am a man!

Wagner. Doctor, to steal about with you, 'tis plain
Is creditable, brings its own great gain.
But otherwise, I'd never throw away
My time in such a place. I so detest
Everything vulgar—hear them! how they play
Their creaking fiddles—hark the kettle-drums;
And their damned screaming to the ear that comes
Worse, if 'twere possible, than all the rest.
They rave like very devils let loose on earth—
This they call singing!—this, they say, is mirth!

Peasants [dancing and singing]. The shepherd for the
dance is drest
In ribands, wreath, and flashy vest;
Round and round like mad they spin
To the fiddle's lively din.
All are dancing full of glee,
All beneath the linden tree.

'Tis merry and merry—heigh-ho, heigh-ho,
Blithe goes the fiddle-bow!

Soon he runs to join the rest;
Up to a pretty girl he prest;
With elbow raised and pointed toe,
Bent to her with his best bow—
Pressed her hand: with feigned surprise,
Up she raised her timid eyes!
“'Tis strange that you should use me so,

So, so—heigh-ho—
'Tis rude of you to use me so.”

All into the set advance,
Right they dance, and left they dance—
Gowns and ribands how they fling,
Flying with the flying ring;
They grew red, and faint, and warm,
And rested, sinking, arm in arm.

Slow, slow, heigh-ho,
Tired in elbow, foot, and toe!

"And do not make so free," she said;
 "I fear that you may never wed;
 Men are cruel"—and he prest
 The maiden to his beating breast.
 Hark! again, the sounds of glee
 Swelling from the linden tree.

'Tis merry, 'tis merry—heigh-ho, heigh-ho,
 Blithe goes the fiddle-bow!

Old Peasant. This, doctor, is so kind of you,
 A man of rank and learning too;
 Who, but yourself, would condescend
 Thus with the poor, the poor man's friend,
 To join our sports? In this brown cheer
 Accept the pledge we tender here,
 A draught of life may it become
 And years on years, oh! may you reach,
 As cheerful as these beads of foam,
 As countless, too, a year for each!

Faust. Blest be the draught restorative!
 I pledge you—happy may you live!

[*The people gather in a circle about him*

Old Peasant. Yes! witness thou the poor man's glee,
 And share in his festivity:
 In this hath fortune fairly dealt
 With him who, in the evil day
 Of the black sickness, with us dwelt,
 When Plague was numbering his prey—
 In strength and health how many gather
 To this day's pastimes, whom thy father
 Rescued from death in that last stage,
 When the disease, tired out at length,
 Is followed by the fever's rage,
 And prostrate sinks the vital strength;
 And you, too, in that time of dread
 And death, a young man, visited
 Each house of sickness:—evermore,
 Day after day, the black hearse bore
 Corse after corse—still, day by day,
 The good man held his fearless way
 Unscathed; for God a blessing gave,
 And saved the man who sought to save.

All. For thee, tried friend, our prayers we raise,

And, when we wish thee length of days,
'Tis for himself that each man prays.

Faust. In thanks to the great Father bend,
We are but servants to extend
Blessings, that flow from man's one Friend.

• *[Goes on with WAGNER]*

Wagner. With what a sense of pure delight,
Master, must thou enjoy the sight
Of this vast crowd, and the unchecked
Expression of their deep respect !
Oh, happy he, who thus to Heaven
Can render back the talents given !
The pious father points thee out
To his young folk—they gaze, and ask,
And gaze again—and crowd about.
The blithe musician in his task
Pauses—the dancers turn to thee,
And gather into rows to see
The man they honour passing by—
And then the gratulating shout—
And then the caps flung up on high :
They almost worship thee—almost
Would bend the knee as to the Host.

Faust. To yonder rock is but a few steps on—
After our long walk we may rest us there.

Here oft I've sate to muse ; here all alone
By vigil, fast, and agonies of prayer
—In Hope then rich, in Faith unwavering,
With tears and sighs, here was I wont to pray,
—And supplicating hands, as though to wring
From Him in heaven that He the plague would stay.
To me the praise I hear is mockery.
Oh ! that you could into my bosom gaze,
Read written there how little worthy we,
Father or son, of these poor people's praise.
My father, a reserved and moody man,
On Nature's holy circles still would pore,
With honest ardour, after some strange plan
That pleased his fancy, toiling evermore.
And he would shut himself in secret cell,
One or two adepts always at his side,
Quaint recipes with fire and crucible,

In this dark kitchen evermore he tried,
Watching for the great moment's birth that might
Antagonistic elements unite.
There in the gentle bath a Lion Red,
Bold wooer he—was to the Lily wed ;
And both were, while the furnace fire raged bright ;
Hurried in torture on from bed to bed.
If in the glass was given us to behold
The Young Queen rise in colours manifold,
Here was the medicine—the patients died.
None asked “ Who took it and remained alive ? ”
—Thus in these mountains—in these valleys wide,
Our cure was than the plague a plague more fierce.
To thousands have I given the poison—they
Have withered—they are dead—and I survive
To hear praise lavished on their murderers.

Wagner. How can this be so painful ? What can men
Do more than in their practice still obey
The precepts of the science of their day ?
What you have from your father heard was then
Heard in the docile spirit of belief.
You in your day extend the limit-line
Of science ; in due time your son will take
His place—and for himself discoveries make
Greater than thine, perhaps—yet but for thine
Impossible. If so then, why this grief ?

Faust. Happy who still hath hope to rise above
This sea of error ; strange that we in vain
Seek knowledge each day needs : the knowledge of
What never can avail us we attain.
But with such musings let us sadden not
This sweet hour ! see, where, in the sunset, gleam
The village huts with green trees smiling round
Each cottage in its own small garden plot.
But the Sun sinks—day dies, and it would seem
With day the Sun. But still doth he survive,
Still speeds he on with life-diffusing beam—
Oh, that no wing uplifts me from the ground,
Nearer and nearer after him to strive !
Then should I the reposing world behold
Still in this everlasting evening glow.
The hill-tops kindling all—the vales at rest—
The silver brooklet in its silent flow

To where the yellow splendour of the West
 On the far river lies in trembling gold.
 In vain the rugged mountain rears his breast,
 With darkening cliff and cave to bar my way,
 Onward in heaven, still onward is my flight,
 And now wide ocean, with each fervid bay,
 In sudden brightness breaks upon my sight,
 Till sinking seems at last the god of day.
 Then the new instinct wakens, and I breathe
 Heaven still—still drink of his undying light.
 Before me day—behind me is the night—
 Above me heaven—and the wide wave beneath,
 A glorious dream—illusion brief and bright—
 For while I yet am dreaming he is gone.
 Alas! from its captivity of earth,
 The body hath no wing whereon to rise,
 And with the winged spirit voyage on:
 And yet will every one of human birth
 The feeling in our nature recognize,
 That for a moment with a sense of wings
 Uplifts us, bears us onward and away,
 When high above, in blue space lost, his lay
 Thrilling the skylark sings.
 When over piny headlands, savage steeps,
 Outspread the eagle sweeps.
 And over moorlands, over main,
 Homeward, homeward strives the crane.

Wagner. I, too, of reverie oft have had my moods,
 But impulse such as this they never bring.
 The eye soon has enough of fields and woods;
 I never had a wish for a bird's wing—
 Far other are the thinking man's delights,
 From book to book, from leaf to leaf they lead,
 And bright and cheerful are his winter nights.
 Life, happy life, warms every limb—Unroll,
 At such charmed hour, some precious parchment scroll,
 All heaven descends upon you as you read.

Faust. You feel but the one impulse now—oh learn
 Never to know the other! in my breast
 Alas! two souls dwell—all there is unrest;
 Each with the other strives for mastery,
 Each from the other struggles to be free.
 One to the fleshly joys the coarse earth yields,

With clumsy tendrils clings, and one would rise
 In native power and vindicate the fields,
 Its own by birthright—its ancestral skies.
 Oh! if indeed Spirits be in the air,
 Moving 'twixt heaven and earth with lordly wings,
 Come from your golden "incense-breathing" sphere,
 Waft me to new and varied life away.
 Oh! had I but a magic cloak to bear
 At will to far off lands the wanderer,
 How little would I prize the rich array
 Of princes, and the purple pomp of kings!

Wagner. Call not the well-known army. Of dusk
 air,

A living stream, the middle space they fill,
 And danger manifold for man prepare,
 For ever active in the work of ill.
 From all sides pour they on us—from the north,
 With piercing fangs, with arrow-pointed tongues,
 And from the sunrise region speed they forth,
 In the dry wind to feast upon the lungs.
 If from the desolate parched wilderness
 The midday send them out with fervid glow,
 To heap fresh fire upon the burning brain,
 A cloudy vapour from the west they flow,
 Descend in what would seem refreshing rain,
 Then in fierce torrents down on thee they press,
 And deluge garden, meadow-field, and plain.
 Ready for evil with delight they hear,
 They lurk and listen—gladly they obey
 Man's invitation—gladly they betray
 Such summoner—in mischief they rejoice,
 Ambassadors from heaven itself appear,
 And utter falsehoods with an angel's voice.
 But let's away—the air grows chill—the dew
 Is falling—and the dusk of night has come.
 Towards night we first have the true feel of home.
 What keeps you standing there?—Why that intent
 Stare—why that look of such astonishment?
 What do you see that fastens thus on you?

Faust. Do you see that black dog, where through the
 green blades

Of the soft springing corn, and the old stubble,
 He runs, just glancing by them for a moment?

Wagner. I've seen him this while past, but thought not of him

As any way strange.

Faust. Look at him carefully,

What do you take the brute to be ?

Wagner. Why, nothing

But a poor fool of a poodle, puzzling out

His master's track whom I suppose he has lost.

Faust. Do you observe how in wide serpent circles
He courses round us ? nearer and yet nearer
Each turn,—and if my eyes do not deceive me,
Sparkles of fire whirl where his foot hath touched.

Wagner. I can see nothing more than a black dog ;
It may be some deception of your eyes.

Faust. Methinks he draws light magic threads around us,
Hereafter to entangle and ensnare !

Wagner. In doubt and fear the poodle's leaping round us,
Seeing two strangers in his master's stead.

Faust. The circle, see, how much more narrow 'tis,—
He's very near us !

Wagner. 'Tis a dog, you see,
And not a spirit ; see, he snarls at strangers,
Shies, lies upon his belly, wags his tail,
As all dogs do.

Faust. We'll bring him home with us.—
Come, pretty fellow !

Wagner. He's a merry dog,—
If you stand, he stands up and waits for you,—
Speak to him, and he straight leaps up upon you,—
Leave something after you, no doubt he'll bring it,
Or plunge into the water for your stick.

Faust. You're right. I see no traces of the Spirit
In him—

Wagner. A dog, well tutored, learns the art
To win upon a good man's heart ;—
Wise men grow fond of them—and see,
Our friend already follows thee—
Soon shall we see the happy creature,
Prime favourite, round the doctor skip :
With every student for his teacher,
How can we doubt his scholarship ?

[They enter the city-gate

III

FAUST'S STUDY

Enter FAUST, with the Dog

Faust. The fields we roamed through with delight
Are hidden now in the deep night :
Within us felt the thrilling hour,
Awakes man's better soul to power :
Hushed the desires of the wild will,
And action's stormy breath is still—
Love stirs around us and abroad,
The love of Man, the love of God.

Rest, poodle, rest—lie down in quiet !
Why runs he up and down the floor ?
What can it be he looks so shy at,
Smelling and snuffling at the door ?
Pleasant wert thou in our mountain ramble,
Didst make us merry with trick and gambol,
Go to sleep on the cushion—a soft snug nest—
Take thy ease, in thine inn, like a welcome guest.

When in our narrow cell each night,
The lone lamp sheds its friendly light,
Then from the bosom doubt and fear
Pass off like clouds, and leave it clear—
Then reason re-assumes her reign,
And hope begins to bloom again,
And in the hush of outward strife,
We seem to hear the streams of life.
And seek, alas !—in vain essay—
Its hidden fountain far away.

Cease dog, to growl ! the beastly howl of the hound
But ill accords with the pure breathing of

Heaven—with the holy tones—all peace and love
That to the heart unbidden way have found.
With men 'tis common to condemn,
Whatever is too good, too fair,
Too high to be conceived by them,
•And is't that like those wretched carles,
This dog, at what he understands not, snarls?

These withering thoughts, do what I will,
They come—the fountain of the heart is chill.
—How oft have I experienced change like this!
Yet is it not unblest in the event;
For, seeking to supply the natural dearth,
We learn to prize things loftier than the earth,
And the heart seeks support and light from heaven.
And such support and light—oh, is it given
Any where but in the New Testament?
Strong impulse sways me now to look to the text
•On which all rests, and honestly translate
The holy original into mine own
Dear native tongue.

[*He opens a volume and prepares to write*
—'Tis written—"In the beginning was the *Word*."—
Already at a stand—and how proceed?
Who helps me? Is the *Word* to have such value,
Impossible—if by the spirit guided.
Once more—"In the beginning was the *Thought*."—
Consider the first line attentively,
Lest hurrying on the pen outrun the meaning.
Is it the *Thought* that works in all, that creates all?
—It should stand rather thus—"In the beginning
Was the *Power*."—yet even as I am writing this
A something warns me we cannot rest there.
The Spirit aids me—all is clear—and boldly
I write, "In the beginning was the *Act*."

—Cease, teasing dog, this angry howl,
These moans dissatisfied and dull,—
Down, dog, or I must be rougher,
Noise like this I cannot suffer,—
One of us must leave the closet, if
You still keep growling—that is positive;
To use a guest so is not pleasant,

But none could bear this whine incessant !
But can what I see be real,
Or is all some trick ideal ?
'Tis surely something more than nature,—
Form is changed, and size, and stature,
Larger, loftier, erecter,
This seeming dog must be a spectre ;—
With fiery eyes, jaws grinding thus,
Like an hippopotamus,
—And here to bring this whelp of hell.
Oh, at last, I know thee well,
For such half-devilish, hellish spawn,
Nought's like the Key of Solomon.

SPIRITS without

One is in prison :
Listen to reason :
Venture not on :
Where he hath gone
Follow him none :
Watch we all ! watch we well !
The old lynx of hell
Has fallen in the snare,
Is trapped unaware,
Like a fox in the gin ;
He is in : he is in :
Stay we without,
Sweep we about,
Backward and forward,
Southward and norward,
Our colleague assisting,
His fetters untwisting,
Lightening their pressure
By mystical measure ;
At our motions and voices,
Our brother rejoices,
For us hath he offered,
His safety, and suffered ;
We are his debtors,
Let's loosen his fetters.

Faust. To conquer him must I rehearse,
First that deep mysterious verse,

Which each elemental spirit,
Of the orders four, who hear it,
Trembling, will confess and fear it.

Scorching Salamander, burn,
Nymph of Water, twist and turn,
Vanish, Sylph, to thy far home,
Labour vex thee, drudging Gnome..

He is but a sorry scholar,
To whom each elemental ruler,
Their acts and attributes essential,
And their influence potential,
And their sympathies auxiliar,
Are not matters quite familiar ;
Little knows he, little merits
A dominion over Spirits.

Fiery Salamander, wither
In the red flame's fiery glow !
Rushing, as waves rush together,
Water-nymph, in water flow !
Gleamy Sylph of Air, glance, fleetest,
And more bright, than midnight meteor !
Slave of homely drudgery,
Lubber Incubus, flee, flee
To the task that waits for thee !
Spirit, that within the beast
Art imprisoned, be releast !
Kingly sway hath Solomon
Over subject spirits won ;
—Forth !—obey the spell and seal
Elemental natures feel !

By Spirits of a different kind,
Is the brute possessed, I find ;
Grinning he lies, and mocks the charm
That has no power to work him harm.
Spectre ! by a stronger spell
Thy obedience I compel—

'If thou be a serf of Satan,
A follower of the fallen great one,

Deserter from hell,
 I conjure and charm thee,
 By the sign and the spell,
 To which bows the black army.

See how he swells—how the hair bristles there !

Outcast creature, see the sign
 Of the Human and Divine.
 Bow before the Uncreated,
 Whom the world has seen and hated :
 Canst thou read Him ? Canst thou see ?
 Dread to hear me name His name
 Through all Heaven diffused is He,
 Died on earth a death of shame.

Ha ! with terror undissembled,
 Methinks the brute at last has trembled ;
 As behind the stove he lies,
 See him swell and see him pant ;
 And his bristles how they rise
 As he rouses,—and his size
 Large as is the elephant—
 Larger yet the room he crowds,—
 He will vanish in the clouds.
 —Spare the roof in thy retreat,
 Lie down at the master's feet.
 Thou shalt feel the scorching glow
 (Mine is not an idle threat)
 Of the heat divine—shalt know
 Pangs of fiercer torment yet.
 —Still resisting ?—Tarry not
 For the three-times glowing light,
 Blaze beyond endurance bright—
 Reluctantly must I at length
 Speak the spell of greatest strength.

[MEPHISTOPHELES comes forward, as the mist sinks, in the
 dress of a travelling scholar, from behind the stove

Meph. Why all this uproar ? is there any thing
 In my poor power to serve you ?

Faust.

This then was
 The poodle's kernel—travelling scholar—psha !—
 A most strange case of the kind—I cannot but
 Laugh when I think of it.

*Meph.*⁴ Most learned master,
Your humble servant—you've been broiling me
After a pretty fashion—sweated me
To the very vengeance. I'm in a fine stew.

Faust. Your name?

Meph. A frivolous enquiry this from you—
From one who rates the word so low?
Who, disregarding outward show,
Would look into the essence of the being—

Faust. With you oftentimes the name
And essence is, I trow, the same,
The name and nature of the being
All one—in nothing disagreeing.
Thus, one is called the god of flies—
One the Seducer—one the Liar.
Now, good, my friend, may I enquire
Your name?

Meph. Part of the power that would
Still do evil—still does good.

• *Faust.* What may this riddle mean?

Meph. I am the spirit that evermore denics,
And rightly so—for all that doth arise
Deserves to perish—this, distinctly seeing—
No! say I, No! to everything that tries
To bubble into being.
My proper element is what you name
Sin, Dissolution,—in a word, the Bad.

Faust. You call yourself
A part, yet stand before me whole.

Meph. I speak
The truth—the modest truth—though Man may call
—Poor fool-world Man—in his aspirings high,
Himself a Whole—the Whole—I am not—I
Am part of a part which part at the first was All,
Part of the Darkness that gave birth to Light;
Proud Light that now would from her rank displace
Maternal Night—and wars with her for space,
Yet is no gainer—for, strive as it will,
Light clings—imprisoned slave—to Bodies still.
It streams from Bodies—it makes Bodies bright—
A body intercepts it in its course;
This gives the hope that Light may too perforce
When Bodies perish be extinguished quite.

Faust. A creditable line of business this;
Your Nothing nothing has unmade, I wis
The great projector sees his projects fail,
And would do business on a smaller scale.

Meph. And even in this way little do I gain,
Against this Nothing the coarse Somewhat will
Obtrude. The rude World contradicts me still.
The clumsy lump of filth in proud resistance
Asserting undeniable existence,
I have been pounding at it all in vain.
I have tried deluge, tempest, thunder, and
Lightnings—at rest you see it still remain
Inviolable—the self-same sea and land.
On the damned stuff,—rank spawn of man and beast,
I can make no impression—not the least.
What crowds on crowds I’ve buried—little good—
It but sets circulating fresh young blood.
On they go—on, replenishing, renewing,
It drives me mad to see the work that’s doing.
From water, air, earth, germs of life unfold,
Thousands in dry and damp, in warm and cold—
Flame still is mine—I’ve kept that—Flame alone,
Else were there nothing specially my own.

Faust. Is it thou?—thou standing there?—thou to resist

The healthful energy, the animation,
The force that moves and moulds, and is creation—
In vain spite clenching that cold devil’s fist?
Strange son of Chaos this may well move laughter.

Meph. Well—this point we may talk about hereafter—
But now, with your permission, I would go.

Faust. That you can, whether I permit or no,
Why ask me? Now that you have found your way,
I hope to see you often here. Good day!—
This is the window—that the door—and yonder
The chimney. Why thus stare about and ponder?

Meph. I am not free: a little obstacle,
I did not see, confines me to your cell,—
The druid foot upon the threshold traced.

Faust. The pentagram?—is it not to your taste?
But, son of hell, if this indeed be so,
How came you in, I should be glad to know,—
How was it, that the charm no earlier wrought?

Meph. The lines were not as perfect as they ought ;
The outer angle's incomplete.

Faust. Well—'twas a pleasant evening's feat—
A most unlooked-for accident—
Strange prize, and yet more strangely sent.

Meph. The dog, without perceiving it,
Leaped in—the devil has somehow
Seen it—is in the house—and now
Can find no way of leaving it.

Faust. Why not the window ?

Meph. Why ?—because

It is enacted in the laws
Which binds us devils and phantoms, " that
Whatever point we enter at,
We at the same return : "—thus we
In our first choice are ever free ;—
Choose, and the right of choice is o'er,
We, who were free, are free no more.

Faust. Hell has its codes of law then—well,
I will think better now of hell.
If laws be binding and obeyed,
Then compacts with you may be made.

Meph. Made and fulfilled, too—nowhere better—
We keep our compacts to the letter ;
But points of law like this require
Some time and thought—are apt to tire,
And I am hurried—we may treat
On them at leisure when we meet
Again—but now I ask permission
To go.

Faust. One moment—I am wishing
To question further one who brings
Good news, and tells such pleasant things.

Meph. Let me go now—I come again,
You may ask any question then.

Faust. Ay, old fox, ay, come catch me there—
I laid no net—I set no snare,
And if you walked into the trap—
'Twas your own act, and my good hap ;
Luck like this can hardly last—
Catch the devil and keep him fast—
Part with a prize, on which none could have reckoned !
The first chance gone, pray who will give a second ?

Meph. If you insist on it—I stay ;
And just to while the hours away,
I would amuse you, as I may ;
For I have pleasant arts and power,
With shows to while the passing hour.

Faust. If it be pleasant, try your art—
As audience I will play my part.

Meph. In one hour shall more intense
Pleasure flow on every sense,
Than the weary year could give,
In such life as here you live—
The songs soft spirits sing to thee,
The images they bring to thee,
Are no empty exhibition
Of the skill of a magician ;
Pictures fair and music's tone,
Speak to eye and ear alone ;
But odours sweet around thee sporting,
Lingering tastes thy palate courting,
Feelings gratified, enraptured,
All thy senses shall be captured.
Preparation need not we—
Spirits, begin your melody.

Spirits [sing]. Vanish, dark arches,

That over us bend,
Let the blue sky in beauty
Look in like a friend.

Oh, that the black clouds
Asunder were riven,

That the small stars were brightening
All through the wide heaven !

And look at them smiling
And sparkling in splendour,
Suns, but with glory

More placid and tender ;
Children of heaven,

In spiritual beauty,
Descending, and bending

With billowy motion,
Downward are thronging,
Willing devotion

Flowing to meet them,
Loving hearts longing,

Sighing to greet them.
 O'er field and o'er flower,
 On bank and in bower,
 The folds of their bright robes
 In breezy air streaming,
 Where loving ones living
 In love's thoughtful dreaming,
 Their fond hearts are giving
 For ever away.
 Bower on bower,
 Tendril and flower ;
 Clustering grapes,
 The vine's purple treasure,
 Have fallen in the wine-vat,
 And bleed in its pressure—
 Foaming and steaming, the new wine is streaming,
 Over agate and amethyst,
 Rolls from its fountain,
 Leaving behind it
 Meadow and mountain,
 And the hill-slopes smile greener, far down where it
 breaks
 Into billowy streamlets, or lingers in lakes.
 And the winged throng, drinking deep of delight
 From the rivers of joy, are pursuing their flight.
 Onward and onward,
 Wings steering sun-ward,
 Where the bright islands, with magical motion,
 Stir with the waves of the stirring ocean.
 Where we hear 'em shout in chorus,
 Or see 'em dance on lawns before us,
 As over land or over waters
 Chance the idle parties scatters.
 Some upon the far hills gleaming,
 Some along the bright lakes streaming,
 Some their forms in air suspending,
 Float in circles never-ending.
 The one spirit of enjoyment,
 Aim, and impulse, and employment ;
 All would breathe in the far distance
 Life, free life of full existence
 With the gracious stars above them,
 Smiling down to say they love them.

Meph. He sleeps,—thanks to my little favourites—
 Why ye have fairly sung away his wits,
 And so he thought the devil to catch and keep!—
 Well, well, I am a concert in your debt—
 Still cloud with dreams his unsuspecting sleep,
 Antic and wild!—still in illusion steep
 His fancy!—hover round and round him yet,
 Haply dreaming, that I am
 Prisoner of the pentagram!
 —Tooth of rat . . . gets rid of that . . .
 Gnawing, sawing, bit by bit,
 Till there be no trace of it;—
 Little need of conjuring,
 Rats to such a place to bring;
 One is rustling in the wall,
 He will hear my whispered call—

The master of the Mice and Rats,
 Flies and Frogs, and Bugs and Bats,
 Sends his summons to appear;—
 Forth! and gnaw the threshold here;—
 He hath spilt the fragrant oil,
 Till it vanish tooth must toil:—
 —Sir Rat hath heard me—see him run
 To the task that soon is done;
 Yonder angle 'tis, confines
 Your master—gnaw the meeting-lines:—
 Now the corner, near the door,
 All is done in one bite more.

The prisoner and the pentagram are gone,
 Dream, Faust, until we meet again, dream on!

Faust [awaking]. Am I again deceived?—and must I
 deem
 These gorgeous images, but phantoms shaped
 In the delusion of a lying dream?
 And so there was no devil at all, 'twould seem—
 And it was but a poodle that escaped!

IV

FAUST'S STUDY

FAUST, MEPHISTOPHELES

Faust. A knock!—Come in—who now comes to torment me?

Meph. 'Tis I.

Faust. Come in.

Meph. You must command me thrice.

Faust. Come in, then.

Meph. That will do—I'm satisfied—

“We soon shall be the best friends in the world. [*Enters*

From your mind to scatter wholly

The mists of peevish melancholy,

Hither come I now, and bear

Of a young lord the noble air,

And mask me in his character;

My dress is splendid, you behold,

Blazing with the ruddy gold,

With my stiff silken mantle's pride,

And the long sword hanging by my side,

And o'er my cap the cock's proud feather—

I'm a fine fellow altogether.

And now, my friend, without delay,

Equip yourself in like array.

That, light and free, you thus may see

Life's many pleasures what they be!

Faust. In every dress alike I can but feel

Life the same torture, earth the self-same prison;

For your light pleasures I am all too old,

Too young to have the sting of passion dead,

The world—what can it give? “Refrain, refrain!”

This is the everlasting song—the chime

Perpetually jingling in all ears,

And with hoarse accents every hour repeats it.

Each morn, with a dull sense of something dreadful,
 I wake, and from my bitter heart could weep
 To see another day, which, in its course,
 Will not fulfil one wish of mine—not one !
 The teasing crowd of small anxieties,
 That each day brings, have frittered into dust
 All joy, until the very hope of joy
 Is something, that the heart has ceased to feel ;—
 And life's a poor masquerade—vapid and wayward,
 And worthless as it is—breaks in upon,
 And dissipates, the world, which for itself
 The lonely man's imagination builds ;
 —And, when the night is come, with heavy heart
 Must I lie down upon my bed, where rest
 Is never granted me, where wild dreams come,
 Hideous and scaring. The in-dwelling spirit,
 Whose temple is my heart, who rules its powers,
 Can stir the bosom to its lowest depths,
 But has no power to move external nature ;
 And therefore is existence burdensome,
 And death desirable, and life detested.

Meph. Yet Death's a guest not altogether welcome.

Faust. Oh, happy he for whom, in victory's hour
 Of splendour, Death around his temples binds
 The laurel dyed with blood, and happy he,
 Whom, after the fast whirl of the mad dance,
 Death in his true love's arms reposing finds.
 Would that I too had, in such rapturous trance,
 My individual being lost in his
 Dissolved before that lofty Spirit's might,
 Past, soul and sense absorbed, away for ever !

Meph. And yet that night I've seen a certain man
 Forbear to taste a certain dark brown liquid !

Faust. A spy too—peering—prying—is it not so ?

Meph. I know not all, but many things I know.

Faust. And if from harrowing thoughts the rich old
 chaunt

Did win me ; and the old remembered words,
 And the old music, like a spell recalling
 Faded remembrances ;—if in the trance
 All that remained of my boy's heart was captive
 To the charmed echo of more happy days—
 Know I not—feel I not it was illusion ?

We are but what the senses make of us,
 And this and all illusion do I curse,
 All that beguiles us, man or boy—that winds
 Over the heart its nets and chains us here
 In thralldom down or voluntary trance,
 This magic jugglery, that fools the soul—
 These obscure powers that cloud and flatter it!
 Oh, cursed first of all be the high thoughts
 That man conceives of his own attributes!
 And cursed be the shadowy appearances,
 The false delusive images of things
 That slave and mock the senses! cursed be
 The hypocrite dreams that soothe us when we think
 Of men—of deathless and enduring names!
 Cursed be all that, in self-flattery,
 We call our own,—wife, child, and slave, and plough;—
 Curse upon Mammon, when with luring gold
 He stirs our souls to hardy deeds, or when
 He smoothes the couch of indolent repose;
 A curse upon the sweet grape's balmy juice,
 And the passionate joys of love, man's highest joys—
 And cursed be all hope and all belief;
 And cursed, more than all, man's tame endurance.

Song of invisible SPIRITS

Woe, woe! thou hast destroyed it!
 This beautiful world:
 Mighty his hand, who dealt
 The blow thro' Nature felt.
 Earth withers:
 A demigod cursed it—
 A shock from the Spirit that shaped and enjoyed it;
 A blight from the bosom that nursed it;
 The fragments we sweep down Night's desolate steep,
 The fading glitter we mourn and we weep!

Proud and powerful
 Son of earth,
 To second birth,
 Call again the pageant splendid—
 Oh, restore what thou hast rended—
 Be no more the wreck thou art—.

Recommence with clearer sense,
 And build within thy secret heart ;
 Re-create, with better fate,
 Another world on firmer ground,
 And far and near, and all around,
 With songs of joy and triumphing,
 Heaven and the happy earth shall ring.

Meph. Listen to the witching lay !

Wise and wily ones be they ;
 Little ones of mine, and good
 Children are they—sly and shrewd :
 Childlike are their voices—age
 Never uttered words more sage ;
 Active life—the joys of sense
 Counsels all experience,—
 And my little ones do well,
 Courting thee 'mong men to dwell,
 Far from this monastic cell ;
 Where passions and young blood together
 In solitude grow dry and wither.
 Oh, listen, and let charms like these
 Thy feelings and thy fancy seize.
 Cease to indulge this misanthropic humour,
 Which like a vulture preys upon thy life ;
 The worst society will make thee feel
 That thou, too, art a man, and among men—
 Not that I mean to mix you with the rabble.
 I'm not myself one of the higher orders ;
 But if you will in company with me
 See life, I will contrive to manage matters,
 And make arrangements to convenience you,
 Cheerfully—from this moment am your comrade ;
 Or, if you like me, am your servant—nay,
 Your slave.

Faust. And what must I give in return ?

Meph. Oh, time enough to think of that here-
 after.

Faust. No, no ! the devil is selfish—very selfish—
 Does nothing for God's sake or from good nature :
 Come, out with your conditions, and speak plainly—
 There's little luck, I trow, with such a servant.

Meph. I bind myself to be thy servant *here*,
 To run and rest not at thy beck and bidding ;

And when we meet again in yonder place,
There, in like manner thou shalt be my servant.

Faust. That yonder place gives me but small concern ;
 When thou hast first shattered this world to atoms,
 There may be others then, for aught I care.
 All joys, that I can feel, from this earth flow,
 And this sun shines upon my miseries !
 And were I once divorced from them I care not
 What may hereafter happen—of these things
 I'll hear no more—I do not seek to know
 If man, in future life, still hates and loves ;
 If in those spheres there be, as well as here,
 Like differences of suffering and enjoyment,
 Debasement and superiority.

Meph. With feelings such as these you well may venture,
 Make only the engagement, and at once
 All will be pleasure—I have rare devices,
 And of my craft will show thee many marvels,
 Right strange and merry scenes will conjure up :
 Sights shalt thou see that man hath never seen.

Faust. Thou—what hast thou—poor devil ? The mind
 of man,
 Man's seeking—struggling spirit—hopes—aspirings
 Infinite—are they things to be conceived
 By natures such as thou art ? Yet hast thou,
 Poor devil, in thy degree a wherewithal
 To wile and win us ; delicacies uncloying
 Are—are they not ?—among those lures of thine ?
 Yea ! hast thou the red gold that restlessly
 Like quicksilver slides from the hand—a game
 At which none wins, yet is it play ?—a girl
 That with her lavish arms around my breast,
 With willing eyes ogles and woos another.
 —And splendour hast thou ?—rank—wilt give me these ?
 The starlight meteors of ambition's heav'n ?
 Aye ! let me see this pleasant fruit of thine
 That rots before we gather it—the trees
 That each day bud and bloom anew.*

Meph. Fine things to fancy !—to be sure you shall .
 Have this or any thing you wish to ask for,—
 Something less spiritual were something better ;

* "The worlde that neweth every daie."—GOWER, *Confessio Amantis*.

But by and by we'll find the Doctor's taste
 Improving,—we'll have our own pleasant places,
 And our tit bits—and our snug little parties,
 And—what will keep the Doctor's spirit quiet ;—
 —I promise you, you'll feel what comfort is.

Faust. Comfort and quiet !—no, no ! none of these
 For me—I ask them not—I seek them not.

If ever I upon the bed of sloth
 Lie down and rest, then be the hour, in which
 I so lie down and rest, my last of life.
 Canst thou by falsehood or by flattery
 Delude me into self-complacent smiles,
 Cheat me into tranquillity ? come, then,
 And welcome life's last day—be this our wager.

Meph. Done.

Faust. Done, say I ; clench we at once the bargain.
 If ever time should flow so calmly on,
 Soothing my spirits into such oblivion,
 That in the pleasant trance I would arrest,
 And hail the happy moment in its course,
 Bidding it linger with me—" Oh, how fair
 Art thou, delicious moment !"—" Happy days,
 Why will ye flee ?"—" Fair visions ! yet a little
 Abide with me, and bless me—fly not yet,"
 Or words like these—then throw me into fetters—
 Then willingly do I consent to perish ;
 Then may the death-bell peal its heavy sounds ;
 Then is thy service at an end—and then
 The clock may cease to strike—the hand to move ;
 For me be time then passed away for ever.

Meph. Think well upon it—we will not forget.

Faust. Remember, or forget it, as you please ;
 I have resolved—and that not rashly : *here*,
 While I remain, I needs must be a slave—
 What matter, therefore, whether thine, or whose ?

Meph. I'll then, belike, at the Doctors' Feast to-day
 Attend, your humble friend and servitor.
 Just one thing more—as life and death's uncertain,
 I'd wish to have a line or two in writing.

Faust. And dost thou ask a writing, too, poor pedant ?
 Know you not Man ? Man's nature ? or Man's word ?
 Is it not enough that I have spoken it ?
 My very life—all that I have and am,

What is it but an echo of my word,
 Pledge of the will that gives it utterance ?
 If words be nothing, what is writing more ?
 Is the world's course one sea of stormy madness,—
 Its thousand streams, in conflict everlasting,
 Raving regardlessly ? roll they not on ?
 Must they not roll ?—and can it be that I,
 In this perpetual movement, shall not move—
 Held back, the slave and prisoner of a promise ?
 Yet in this fancy all believe alike :
 If a delusion, all men are deluded—
 And is there one that would be undeceived ?
 Truth and the feeling of integrity
 Are of the heart's own essence—should they call
 For sufferings, none repents the sacrifice.
 Oh, happy he, whom Truth accompanies
 In all his walks—from outward cumbrance free—
 Pure of all soil—dwelling within the heart,
 Light to his steps and guidance : oracle
 To lead or to mislead, none doth he seek ;
 Consults no casuist, but an honest conscience ;
 Of sacrifices reckes not, and repents not.
 But a stamped parchment and a formal deed,
 With seal and signature, all shrink from this
 As something that offends and wounds our nature ;
 It robs, methinks, the words of all their life,
 The letter, and that only binds us now ;
 Such virtue, and no other can it have,
 As seal and stamp, as wax and parchment give—
 But why ?—why argue for it or against it ?—
 Is writing more than the unwritten word ?
 —What, evil one, what is it you require ?
 Brass ? marble ? parchment ? paper ?—do you wish
 Graver or chisel ? or plain pen and ink ?—
 Have which you please—any or all of them.

Meph. Why this excitement ? why this waste of oratory ?
 These frantic gestures ?—any scrap will do ;—
 Just scratch your name, there, in a drop of blood.

Faust. A silly farce—but if it gratifies you—

Meph. Blood it must be—blood has peculiar virtues.

Faust. Fear not that I will break this covenant :
 The only impulse now that sways my powers,
 My sole desire in life, is what I've promised !

I've been puffed up with fancies too aspiring,
My rank is not more high than thine ; I am
Degraded and despised by the Great Spirit ;
Nature is sealed from me ; the web of thought
Is shattered ; burst into a thousand threads ;
I loathe, and sicken at the name of knowledge.
Now in the depths of sensuality
To still these burning passions ; to be wrapped
In the impenetrable cloak of magic,
With things miraculous to feast the senses !
Let's fling ourselves into the stream of time,
Into the tumbling waves of accident,
Let pain and pleasure, loathing and enjoyment,
Mingle and alternate, as it may be ;
Restlessness is man's best activity.

Meph. Nothing whatever is there to restrain you,
If your desires be as you say, to taste
Of every sweet—sip all things—settle nowhere—
Catching each moment while upon the wing
In random motion all that meets the eye,
Rifling from every flower its bloom and fragrance,
If any thing will do that is amusing—
I wish you joy of this new life—come on—
Set to at once—come—come, no bashful loitering.

Faust. Hearken. I have not said one word of bliss—
Henceforth do I devote and yield myself,
Heart, soul, and life, to rapturous excitement—
Such dizzy, such intoxicating joy,
As, when we stand upon a precipice,
Makes reel the giddy sense and the brain whirl !
From this day forward am I dedicate
To the indulgence of tempestuous passion—
Love agonising—idolising hatred—
Cheering vexation—all that animates
And is our nature ; and the heart, serenely
And separated from the toil of knowledge,
Cured of the fever that so long oppressed it,
Shall cease to shut itself against the wounds
Of pain : whate'er is portioned 'mong mankind
In my own intimate self shall I enjoy,
With my soul grasp all thoughts most high or deep,
Heap on my heart all human joys and woes,
Expand myself until mankind become

A part, as 'twere, of my identity,
And they and I at last together perish.

Meph. A pretty passion for a man to cherish !
Believe me, who have for some thousand years,
Day after day, been champing this hard food,
Bitter bad diet is the same old leaven.
Take a friend's word for it who ought to know.
Never hath man from cradle to the bier
Succeeded in digesting the tough dough ;
To man the Universal is not given.
The Whole is only for a God—in light
He lives—eternal light—Us hath he driven
Into the darkness—yours is Day and Night.

Faust. This daunts not me !

Meph. Said boldly and said well !

To me there seems to be one obstacle ;
Ars longa, vita brevis—the old story—
Take a few lessons more—and then determine.
•Call to your aid some builder up of verses,
Let his mind wander in the fields of thought,
Imagining high attributes to heap
On you—the lion's magnanimity—
The fleetness of the stag—the fiery blood
That dances in the hearts of Italy—
The constancy and firmness of the North—
Let his invention gift you with the secret,
With lofty thoughts low cunning to combine—
To love with all a young heart's ardent impulses,
Yet following closely some cold plan of reason—
And thus to reconcile each contrariety.
A pleasant person this Herr Macrocosmus,
I think I've met him somewhere in society.

Faust. What am I then—if here too all in vain
The passions and the senses pant and strain,
If this—the crown of our humanity
Is placed on heights I never can attain ?

Meph. You are just what you are—nay—never doubt it,
Heap lying curls in millions on your head ;
On socks—a cubit high—plant your proud tread,
You are just what you are—that's all about it.

Faust. Alas ! in vain poor I together scraped
All that man's science till this day hath shown ;
And all that his imagination shaped,

I in ambition's dreams have made my own.
 A weary task it was—a sullen strife,
 And now I sit me down, helpless, alone,
 No new power comes—no strength—no spring of life.
 Not by a hair's breadth higher is my height,
 Far—far as ever from the infinite.

Meph. Aye! this is man's presumptuous view—
 Mine, less ambitious, is more true—
 Why to these moody fancies give
 The rein? while living, why not live?
 Why, what the mischief! you have got
 Your head—hands—haunch—paunch—and—what not—
 But all that I employ—enjoy—
 Is it less mine? When to my car
 My money yokes six spankers, are
 Their limbs not my limbs? Is't not I
 On the proud race-course that dash by?
 Yes, I it is that sweep along,
 Swift in their speed—in their strength strong—
 Mine all the forces I combine—
 The four-and-twenty legs are mine—
 Up! up! throw off this cloud of gloom!
 Come! come!—into the world—come! come!—
 Away with dreams—your theorist
 Is—let me tell you—like a beast
 On a dry heath, whom a bad Spirit
 In one dull circle round and round
 Keeps whirling, while on all sides near it
 The bright green pastures everywhere abound.

Faust. But how begin?

Meph. First, must we fly from hence—
 What place of martyrdom is this? what life
 Is this to lead? or can you call it life,
 Wearying yourself and pupils thus for ever?
 Better leave such work to your neighbour Paunchman,
 Why stay to plague yourself with threshing straw?
 Afraid, even in a hint, to intimate
 Your best acquirements to the boys who crowd
 Your lecture-room: even now upon the passage
 I hear the foot of one.

Faust. Impossible; I cannot see him now.

Meph. The poor lad has been waiting a long while;
 We should not let him go without some notice;

A quarter of an hour will do for him—
 Come, Doctor, help me on with your cap and gown,
 Trust to my wits—I rather like the whim—
 This masquerade dress becomes me charmingly,
 Meanwhile, you may be getting into trim
 Fit for this fashionable trip of ours. [Exit FAUST

MEPHISTOPHELES *in FAUST's long gown*

Ay, thus continue to condemn
 Reason and knowledge, man's best powers,
 And every hope he can inherit !
 Still speak despisingly of them,
 Heart-hardened by an evil spirit ;
 Soul and senses in confusion,
 Mocked by magical delusion ;
 Still indulge derision vain.
 Mine thou art, and must remain !
 His is an eager, restless mind,
 That presses forward unconfined
 And, in the anticipation
 Of a brisk imagination,
 Ever active, still outmeasures
 The slow steps of earthly pleasures ;
 Him, through the world's wild vanity,
 Its wearisome inanity,
 Will I hurry forward, thus
 Breaking his impetuous
 And fiery temper—he will sprawl,
 And start, and stand—then stick and fall—
 Meats and wines unsatisfying
 Shall before his lips be flying—
 The withered spirit seeks in vain
 Health and refreshment to obtain—
 What need of seal and signature
 In blood, such spirit to secure ?

STUDENT *enters*

Student. I am but just arrived—your name
 My chief attraction ; and I came
 At once,—forgive my strong desire
 To see and speak to him, whose fame
 Has spread so far—whom all admire.

Meph. Fame has been most obliging, then :
You see a man like other men—
Did you seek farther, you might meet
Abler instructors.

Student. I entreat
Your care and counsel—with a guide
Where could I better be supplied ?
I come with heart and spirits free,
And youth—and the professor's fee.
My mother scarce would let me come ;
But I love learning more than home—
Have for improvement travelled far——

Meph. And in the best place for it are.

Student. And yet, if I the truth may say,
I would I were again away :
Walls like these, and halls like these,
Will, I fear, in no wise please !
The narrow gloom of this cold room,
Where nothing green is ever seen ;
No lawn—no tree—no floweret's bloom—
'Mong benches, books, my heart is sinking,
And my wasted senses shrinking—
I mourn the hour that I came hither ;
Ear and eye, and heart will die,
Thought, and the power of thought, will wither.

Meph. This is all custom : as at first
Unwillingly the young child sips
The breast ; but soon, with eager thirst,
And pressure of delighted lips,
Clings to the mother's heart, that gives
The living food on which he lives ;
Thus thou, each day more deeply blest,
Wilt drink from Wisdom's nursing breast.

Student. Oh, to my heart shall she be strained
With love !—but how is she obtained ?

Meph. First, let me beg, that you will mention
What line of life is your intention ?

Student. Oh, I long ardently to know
Whatever man may learn below,
All that we contemplate on earth,
And all that in the heaven hath birth,
To roam through learning's wondrous maze,
And comprehend all Nature's ways.

Meph. Right ; but by prudence still be guided,
Guard most, that thought and mind be not
Much dissipated and divided.

Student. With soul and strength will I apply,
But now and then could seize with pleasure
A few short hours of idle leisure.
A little thoughtless liberty ;
A pleasant summer holyday,
When skies are bright, and fields are gay.

Meph. Make good use of your time, for fast
Time flies, and is for ever past ;
To make time for yourself begin
By order—method—discipline ;
For this I counsel my young friend
A course of logic to attend ;
Thus will your mind, well-trained, and high,
In Spanish boots stalk pompously !
With solemn look, and crippled pace,
The beaten road of thought will trace :
Nor here and there, through paths oblique,
In devious wanderings idly strike ;
For days and days you then are taught,
That, in what hitherto had gone,
Like eating, and like drinking, on,
One, Two, and Three, the guide must be
In this which seemed till now so free.
But, as the weaver's work is wrought,
Even so is formed the web of thought ;
One movement leads a thousand threads.
Unseen they move, as now above
The shuttle darts, now darts below ;
One beat combines a thousand twines,
And not unlike would seem the flow
Of mind, when Nature thinks in us.
But now in steps *Philosophus*,
To prove it could not but be thus.
“ *The first was so—the second so—
Then must the third and fourth be so—
And if the premises be hollow,
That the conclusion will not follow.*”
The language this of all the schools
The Art of Weaving taught by rules
That men profound and boys believe !

—Do they teach any one to weave ?
 Here he, who seeks to learn, or gives
 Descriptions of, a thing that lives,
 Begins with “ murdering, to dissect,”
 The lifeless parts he may inspect—
 The limbs are there beneath his knife,
 And all—but that which gave them life :
 Alas ! the spirit hath withdrawn,
 That which informed the mass is gone—
 They scrutinize it, when it ceases
 To be itself, and count its pieces—
 Finger and feel them, and call this
 Experiment—analysis.
 Is what we handle then the whole ?
 Is there no animating soul ?
 In Nature is there nothing meant ?
 No law, no language of intent ?
 Oh ! could your chemist, in whose hand
 The fragments are, but understand
 The terms he uses ! “ *Encheiresis*,
Naturæ ”—for the phrase expresses
 With scorn, that it seems strange should be
 In words thus accidentally,
 How less than nothing can avail
 These tricks of dabbling and detail.

Student. I cannot wholly comprehend your meaning.

Meph. No matter—next time you'll get better on—
 When you have learned to arrange, and classify,
 And body all you hear in syllogisms.

Student. My brain is stupefied—I feel
 As if, within my head, a wheel
 Was whirling round with ceaseless reel.

Meph. Next—most important thing of all—
 With zeal to metaphysics fall.
 There, see—or think that you see—plain,
 What—does not pass within the brain.
 Our faculties are too confined
 To guide us here—the human mind
 Fails—and we are and must be blind.
 Thoughts are or are not in the head,—
 Use serviceable words instead ;
 But first be sure the next half-year
 At every lecture to appear—.

Five hours each day for lecturing—
Be there the moment the bells ring.
Be sure beforehand to prepare,
Have read the syllabus with care ;
Have every paragraph well conned,
Watch, lest the teacher go beyond
The matter written in his book ;
Then, as you write his dictates, look
That you take down verbatim all
And every sentence he lets fall,
As if each sentence scripture were,
That comes from the professor's chair.

Student. This, sir, you need not tell me twice—
I feel how useful the advice ;
What one has thus in black and white,
He can take home with him at night.

Meph. But what profession is your choice ?

Student. Law shall not ever have my voice.

Meph. In this, I own, you show discerning :
I know, and do not love, this learning.
Laws every where are like the taint
Of an inherited complaint,
The curse of an infected race :
Their downward progress you may trace,
From land to land, through blighted nations.
Afflicting distant generations—
Reason made nonsense, good intent,
In lapse of time warped from its true sense.
Things for the common welfare meant,
Becoming thus a common nuisance.
Unhappy, that it was thy fate
To have been born an age too late.
The laws for thy great grandsire made
Are laws to thee—must be obeyed—
Must be obeyed, and why ? Because,
Bad though they be, they are the laws ;
But of the rights by Nature taught,
And born with man, they take no thought.

Student. You deepen my abhorrence for
That, which I did before abhor—
I wish to learn Theology.

Meph. I fear to lead you wrong—and I
Speak here with more of hesitation.

It is a dangerous vocation,
This same Theology: its ways
Are such a tangled serpent maze—
Such poison every where disguised—
And every where as medicine prized—
That which is which, or why 'tis so,
Few can conjecture—none can know.
The best thing that the case affords
Is—stick to some one doctor's words:
Maintain his doctrines out and out,
Admit no qualifying doubt;
But stick to words at any rate,
Their magic bids the temple gate
Of Certainty fly safely ope—
Words, words alone are your best hope.

Student. But in each word must be a thought—

Meph. There is, or we may so assume,—
Not always found, nor always sought,
While words—mere words, supply its room.
Words answer well, when men enlist 'em,
In building up a favourite system;
With words men dogmatize, deceive;
With words dispute, on words believe;
And be the meaning much or little,
The Word can lose nor jot nor tittle.

Student. Pardon—I feel my questions tease you
Just for a moment more—one word
On Medicine, so please you.
With but three years for it, it were absurd
For one like me, without a guide,
To enter on a course so wide;
And your experience may suggest,
In such a field, what path is best.

Meph. [aside]. I'm sick of this pedantic tone,
Too long assumed. Now for my own!

[Aloud.] The trade of Medicine's easiest of all:
'Tis but to study all things—every where—
Nature and man—the great world and the small—
Then leave them at hap-hazard still to fare.
It is, you see, plainly impossible
That one man should be skilled in every science—
Who learns the little that he can, does well:
The secret of the art is self-reliance.

A man can learn but what he can ;
 Who hits the moment is the man.
 —You are well made—have common sense,
 And do not want for impudence.
 Be fearless—others will confide no less,
 When you are confident of your success—
 The only obstacle is indecision ;
 But, above all, win to yourself the women—
 They have their thousand weaknesses and aches,
 And the one cure for them is the Physician.
 A due consideration for the sex
 Will teach the value of decorous seeming :
 Let but appearances be unsuspecting,
 And they are every thing their doctor wishes.
 The title “ Doctor ” is essential,
 Our university credential,
 That, as in one approved and tried,
 They may undoubtedly confide.
 Then in the very earliest stage
 Of new acquaintanceship you lead them,
 Enjoying every privilege
 Of tête-à-tête familiar freedom ;
 Although the young physician’s eyes
 Exhibit half, and half disguise
 Something, like tenderness, the while
 Mingling with the habitual guile
 Of the sly acquiescent smile :
 Then may you feel the taper wrist.
 Nor will there one of them resist
 The hand professionally prest
 —Permitted boldness—on her breast,
 Or round her waist the free arm thrown,
 To feel how much too tight her zone.

Student. This seems more feasible—one sees
 Something like reason in all this—
 Winning the household through the wife.

Meph. Theory, friend, is old and grey,
 And green the golden tree of life !

Student. Is this reality ?—so like a dream
 All seems ! May I, upon some future day
 Resume my visit ?—learn the grounds and root
 Of these your doctrines ?

Meph.

Come when it may suit.

Student. One favour more—deem not your guest
Intrusive—grant me this request—
Just in my album write a line.

Meph. With pleasure. [*Writes, and returns the book*

Student. [*reads*]. *Eritis sicut Deus, scientes bonum et malum.* [*Shuts it respectfully, and exit*

Meph. If the wily proverb guide thee, and my cousin
the sly snake,

A weary man thy likeness to the gods will of thee make !

FAUST enters

Faust. Where go we now ?

Meph. Oh ! wheresoe'er you please !—
See all that's to be seen in common life,
And then, so please you, visit the gay world,
Dancing and revelling scot-free, and careless
Who pays the piper.

Faust. What, with my long beard ?
How shall I trim it into decent shape ?
And I want ease of manners, and the knowledge
Of life—why, the experiment must fail !
I cannot—never could at any time—
Be what society requires : I am
Abashed in company—shall every moment
Be at a loss !

Meph. My good friend, have no fear
On this score—be but self-possessed—that is
The only art of life.

Faust. How do you mean
To travel ?—where are servants, horses, carriage ?

Meph. We only spread this mantle out, and it
Wafts us through air in this our daring journey.
Bring out with you no loads of heavy baggage :
A little gas, which I will soon have ready,
Will lift us high above the earth ;—light laden,
We will move fast, and soon be far away !
Welcome, my friend, to the new life before you—
A pleasant change. I wish you joy of it !

V

AUERBACH'S CELLAR IN LEIPZIG

Carousal of Merry Companions

Frosch. Is no one laughing?—no one drinking?
Come, come, a truce to sober thinking!
Hang these long faces—come, be sprightly!
What, you that used to blaze so brightly!
All dull and damp—smoking together
Like dunghill straw in rainy weather?

• *Brander.* 'Tis your fault that we are not jolly—
Have you no beastliness, no folly
To treat us to to-night?

Frosch. [throwing a glass of wine over BRANDER'S head].
Have both.

Bran. Brute that you are! Were I not loth—

Fro. You got but what you asked me for.

Siebel. Come, come, we'll have no civil war—
We'll have no difference of opinion
In this our absolute dominion.
Whoever quarrels, kick him out—
Now raise the chorus round about—
Lift every voice, and swill, and shout—

With holla—holla—ho!

Altmayer. Help! help! I am lost—bring me cotton!
the cheers

Will split open my skull, and play hell with my ears.

Sie. When the arches ring again,
We feel the bass in full power then.

Fro. Right, right, say I, with all my heart;
If any one in evil part
Takes any thing, that here is done,
Why, kick him out, the bitch's son.

Alt.

A tara—lara—da.

Fro. All throats are tuned.

[Sings

*The Holy Romish empire now,
How does it hold together ?*

Bran. A nasty song—psha !—a political song.
A most offensive song. Thank God each day,
Rising from bed, that you have nought to say
With governing this Romish empire ; I
Greatly rejoice and bless my stars therefore,
I am not Emperor or Chancellor ;
Still I see no sufficient reason why
We should not have a ruler ;—I propose
That we elect a Pope—what qualification
Should mark a candidate for consecration,
All of ye know.

Fro. [sings].

*Greet her, Lady Nightingale,
Greet my love ten thousand times.*

Sie. Love-meetings and greetings—let us not hear of them.

Fro. Love-greetings and meetings—who can keep clean of them ?

[Sings

*Undo the door in stilly night—
Open latch—thy love keeps watch ;
For thy sake—is he awake,
Shut-to the door at morning's light.*

Sie. Yes ! sing, sing on—a little while sing on !
Sing her sweet praises !—I will laugh anon.
Me she deceived, and thee she is deceiving,
Devil that she is—whom there is no believing—
Has played the same tricks with each man that sought her—

I wish some goblin of the forest caught her
On a cross-road—or that, from the witch-dances
On Blocksberg, trotting home, an old buck-goat,
With his long-bearded chin and meg-a-geg throat,
Made up to her—'tis some such brute she fancies ;
A young fellow of proper flesh and blood,
To be thus thrown away were far too good ;
From me no serenading should she gain,
Other than dashing in each window-pane.

Bran. [striking on the table]. Silence there—silence—all attend to me—

Gentlemen, I know life, and how to live ;
 And, as some of us seem in love to be,
 A song for love-sick people will I give.
 Your merry singer is the best physician
 For a poor devil in such sad condition.
 Here all of you attend—come, cease your chattering—
 And listen to a song of the first pattern—
 And all join in the chorus :—

[Sings

Once in a cellar lived a rat,
 Whose paunch each day grew smother ;
 He dined on butter, supped on fat,
 And looked like Doctor Luther.
 The cook put poison in his way,
 And when our poor rat tasted it,
 He felt a cramping in his heart,
 As fierce as if Love wasted it.

As fierce as if Love wasted it.

And he ran round, and out he ran,
 And looking for a cure, he
 Drank at each puddle, gnawed, and scratched,
 And raved in perfect fury.
 In pain he fell—in pain he sprang,
 The cook with pleasure gazed at it ;
 Poor creature felt at heart a pang,
 As fierce as if Love wasted it.

As fierce as if Love wasted it.

And torture drove him at noon-day
 To run into the kitchen ;
 He fell down on the hearth, and lay
 Convulsing there and screeching.
 Loud laughed the cook to see him sprawl
 In death, and feel she hasted it :
 Ha ! ha ! quoth she, your heart is gone,
 As sure as if Love wasted it.

As sure as if Love wasted it.

Sie. How the heavy logs enjoy it,
 As if a rat had nothing good,
 And 'twere a virtue to destroy it.

Bran. The rats, it seems, are special favourites ;

Creatures of generous gentle blood,
And hold high place in your good graces.

All. Old baldpate, with the paunch there,—how his
wits
Are gone !—to him the rat's case his own case is—
With food too good for it the belly swollen,
Then the poor thing in death convulsions rolling—
No wonder it should jar and strike
Upon his nerves—it is too like.

MEPHISTOPHELES and FAUST enter

Meph. [*in conversation with FAUST*]. And first I feel
anxiety,
To show you our "Society
Of merry fellows ;"—free and gay,
Regular rioters are they,
And their whole life is holiday ;
The requisites for happiness
Are few, are—what these men possess :
With lively spirits—self-conceit
And little,—very little wit—
'Tis the same life, the whole year round,
The self-same set together found ;—
Each night, their songs—their drink—their game—
Their mirth—their very jests the same ;
And as its tail diverts a kitten,
So they with their own jokes are smitten :
They ask no more than thus to sup—
Without a headache to get up—
And while the host will credit give
Are satisfied—and thus they live !

Bran. They're travellers off a journey, you may see it
In their odd manners—are not here an hour.

Fro. You're right, quite right ! Leipzig, say I, for ever !
Leipzig's a little Paris in itself :
You'd know our Leipzig people any where.
Their manners are so finished.

Sie. But these strangers,
What think you, are they ?

Fro. Only wait a moment—
In the twinkle of a bumper I will tell you—
I'll worm it out of them as easily

As draw an infant's tooth : let me alone
For managing them : I guess that they belong
To the nobility, they look so haughty,
So distant—you would almost say—displeased.

Man. They are mountebanks, I'll lay you any wager.

Alt. Probably.

Pro. See if I don't screw it out.

Meph. [to FAUST]. Always the same, they never scent
the devil,

Even when he has them by the nape of the neck.

Faust. Your servant, gentlemen—

Sie. Thanks, sir, and yours—

[Looking at MEPHISTOPHELES, in a low tone.]

The fellow limps a little on one foot.

Meph. Will you permit us to sit down with you,
And for good wine, which cannot be had here,
Give us the pleasure of good company ?

Alt. You seem a most fastidious gentleman.

Fro. You are lately come from Rippach, are you not, sirs ?
Have been at supper with old Hans to-night ?

Meph. To-day we did not stop ;—last time we spoke to
him

He told us some good stories of his cousins—
And sent his compliments to each of you.

Alt. A home-thrust that—the fellow's not to be done.

Sie. He knows the world, and how to make out life.

Fro. Wait, wait, until—I'll have him before long.

Meph. Was I deceived, for just as we came in
We heard, or thought we heard, a merry chorus
Of practised voices ?—what a rich effect
Music must have along this vaulted roof.

Fro. You are a virtuoso then—

Meph. Oh, no !

My skill is next to none—but I love music.

Alt. Give us a song—

Meph. A hundred, if you please.

Sie. Something original—something brand-new.

Meph. We're just returned from Spain, romantic Spain,
The land of wine and song. [Sings

Once on a time there was a king,

A lovely queen had he—

But dearer far than queen or son,

He loved a big black flea.

Fro. A flea ! is it possible I heard him right ?
A flea ! oh, what a guest to grace a palace !

Meph. Once on a time, there was a king,
A lovely queen had he—
But dearer far than queen or son,
He loved a big black flea !
He called the royal tailor,
Who measures him, and stitches
A coat for the young favourite,
And a little pair of breeches.

Bran. Forget not, sire, to charge the tailor strictly
That they be well and fashionably made—
And as he sets a value on his head,
That he shall leave no seam, or plait, or wrinkle !

Meph. Of silk and satin were the clothes
Our young lord looked so fine in—
He sported ribands—and a cross
Upon his breast was shining !
Soon Minister, he wore a star,
Lived splendidly and gaily,
His poor relations all got place,
And thronged the palace daily.

And Queen and Maid got bites and stings,
And were afraid to scratch 'em ;
They cursed the flea and all his kin,
But did not dare to catch 'em !
But we, if we get sting or bite,
None hinders us to scratch 'em ;
And if the fleas be troublesome,
We kill them when we catch 'em.

Chorus. And if the fleas be troublesome,
We kill them when we catch 'em.

Fro. Bravo ! bravo ! that was excellent.

Sie. We'll catch and play the devil with the fleas.

Bran. With pointed nail and finger, pressed together.

All. Freedom and Wine for ever ! — Wine and
Freedom.

Meph. Willingly would I drink long life to Freedom ;
But that your wines are execrably bad.

Sie. You must not venture to say this again !

Meph. Only I fear to vex our worthy host,
I'd give you something better from our cellars.

Sie. Out with it then. I'll take the blame on me.

Fro. Pour out a bumper if you wish to please us—
None of your sample thimblefuls for me—
When I try wine, I like a deep long draught—
That is the only way to judge of it.

Alt. [*in a low voice*]. I've strong suspicions they are
• from the Rhine.

Meph. Bring me a gimlet.

Bran. What to do with it?—

You cannot have your wine-casks at the door.

Alt. Behind, there, is the landlord's chest of tools.

Meph. [*taking up the gimlet*]. Now say what wine you wish.

Fro. What do you mean?

Have you so many?

Meph. Each may choose his favourite.

Alt. [*to FROSCHE*]. Ha! you begin to lick your lips already.

Fro. Well then, if I may choose, I'll take the Rhenish :
The best gifts we receive are from our country.

Meph. [*boring a hole in the edge of the table opposite FROSCHE's seat*]. Now get a little wax—and make some stoppers.

Alt. 'Tis plain that they are jugglers.

Meph. [*to BRANDER*]. Sir, your choice?

Bran. I'll have champagne—sparkling champagne for me!

[MEPHISTOPHELES bores again; one of the party has
in the meantime prepared the wax stoppers and
stopped the gimlet holes]

Bran. One cannot always do without the Foreigner—
But give him to me in the shape of wine.
A true-born German hates with all his heart
A Frenchman—but their wines are excellent.

Sie. [*as MEPHISTOPHELES approaches his seat*]. I'd have
you know I hate all acid wines—
Give me a glass of genuine sweet!

Meph. Tokay

Then let it be.

Alt. No, gentlemen, this won't do!
Now look me straight in the face, old mountebank:
I see you but bamboozle us!—

Meph. Yes, yes!

A very likely story—to play tricks
On noble guests like you! now fast—make ready—
Out with the word—pray, sir, what wine shall I give you?

Alt. Any and all! whatever I can get.

[After all the holes are bored and stopped

Meph. *[with strange gestures].*

Grapes are of the vine-branch born;
The buck-goat's is a branch of horn.
Wine is sap—and grapes are wood,
The wooden board yields wine as good.
All is clear to him that seeth—
Lift the veil and look beneath,
It is but a deeper glance
Under Nature's countenance—
Now behold—your prophet saith—
Miracles—if you have faith.
Every man draw up his stopper,
And drink such wine as he thinks proper.

All *[as they draw the stoppers, and the wine each has chosen runs into his glass].* Flow on, bright rill—flow on and fill

Our hearts with joy—flow on at will!

Meph. Drink—but be cautious how you spill;
There's danger if a drop but falls. *[They drink repeatedly]*
All *[sing].* That we will—that we will!

Happy as the cannibals:

Like five hundred swine we swill.

Meph. Look at them, they're the happiest of men.

Faust. Take me away—I'll not come here again.

Meph. Wait till you see them in their glory:
We'll soon have fun!

Sie. *[drinking carelessly, spills some of the wine, which turns to flame].* Help, help! fire, fire!—Hell fire!

Meph. Down, friendly Element!—be still, I say—
—This time 'twas but a drop of purgatory!

Sie. What means the fellow? Damn him—he shall pay
Dearly for this; you'd think he did not know us.

Fro. *[to MEPHISTOPHELES].* Better take care no tricks
like this to show us.

Alt. The sooner we get rid of him the better—
There's nothing to be had from such a debtor.

Sie. You, sir, are guilty of strange impropriety;
Playing your mountebank pranks in such society.

Meph. Silence, old wine-tub !

Sie. Broomstick ! one would think
He might rest satisfied with these feats of his,
Without being impudent into the bargain.

Bran. Be silent, and thankful that we do not flog you !

Alt. [*draws a stopper out of the table ; fire flies out*]. I'm
•burnt—I'm burning !

Sie. Kill him—kill the scoundrel !
He's a magician !—Kill him ! he's fair game ! •

[*They draw their knives and rush upon MEPHISTOPHELES*

Meph. [*with solemn gestures*]. Wandering voices mock
the ear !

Forms, that phantoms are, appear !

Be ye far away, and near !

Be ye there ! and be ye here !

[*They stand gazing on each other in amazement*

Alt. Where am I ?—in what lovely land ?

Fro. What a show of vineyards near !

Sie. Clustering grapes invite the hand.

Bran. See them through the green leaves here—

Ripe and heavy—look at them ;—

Oh ! what grapes and such a stem !

[*He seizes SIEBEL by the nose. The others do the same
one with the other, and are raising their knives*

Meph. [*as from above*]. Clouds of Error pass away !

See ye how the Devil can play !

Let each startled reveller

See who plays the Devil here.

[*Vanishes with FAUST. The fellows start back from
one another*

Sie. What's this ?

Alt. How's this ?

Fro. Is this your nose ?

Bran. [*to SIEBEL*]. And yours, on which my fingers
close ?

Alt. I feel the shock through every limb ;
A chair !—I faint !—my eyes grow dim !

Fro. What is the matter with you all ?

Sie. Where is he ? what's become of him ?

If I can catch him, how I shall—

Alt. Catch him, indeed ! 'tis easy trying
To deal with such—I saw him flying
Out of the cellar on a cask—

You may as well give up the task :
 Heavy as lead these feet of mine
 Are grown.—[*Turning towards the table.*] We've lost our
 well of wine.

Sie. All was deception—trick—design !

Fro. Yet, what I drank, I thought was wine !

Bran. The ripe grapes too—did they deceive ?
 Who after this can but believe ?

VI

WITCH'S KITCHEN

On a low hearth a large caldron is on the fire—in the thick smoke are discovered several strange figures. A FEMALE CAT-APE (little long-tailed monkey) is sitting beside the caldron, to skim it, and take care it does not boil over. THE MALE CAT-APE, with the young ones, sits near, warming himself ;—fantastic articles of furniture, suitable to the place, seen hanging from the walls, &c.

FAUST and MEPHISTOPHELES

Faust. This senseless witchcraft sickens and disgusts me—

And, sayest thou that I shall recruit life's powers,
 Here, in this loathsome den of filthy madness ?—

Shall I petition an old hag for counsel ?

And can the nauseous puddle of that pot

Make me a younger man by thirty winters ?

There's little hope if thou hast nothing better—

My expectation is already gone !

—Is there in Nature no restorative

But this ? Has Spirit never yet devised

Means different to restore the spring of life ?

Meph. Now do I recognize my friend's good sense ;—

Yes ! there are also natural means, by which

Life's bloom and vigour may again be given ;

But in a different book this lesson lies,

And it forms an odd chapter.

Faust. I will learn it.

Meph. There is a means, and it requires not gold,
 Magic, or medicine ;—away with you
 Into the fields—begin to hew and delve—
 Confine yourself, and limit every wish
 Within a narrow circle—feed upon
 Meats, simple, undisguised—and live, in short,
 Beast-like, 'mong beasts—deem it no degradation
 Thyself to spread the dung upon the field
 The growth of which thou art to reap—this is •
 Indeed the best way to repair life's powers,
 And wear at eighty a hale countenance.

Faust. This cannot be—I am not used to it—
 Nor can I learn to take up now the spade—
 Such narrow life would never do for me.

Meph. We must recur then to the witch.

Faust.

Why so ?

—What's the particular use of an old hag
 In the matter ? Can't you cook the draught yourself ?

Meph. That were a pretty waste of time—why, man,
 A thousand bridges might be built, before
 'Tis done—it asks not skill and science only,
 But patience must brood over it—the spirit
 In silence must remain for years fermenting ;
 Time, and time only, clears and strengthens it,—
 All things belonging to it are mysterious—
 Its powers and its ingredients wonderful—
 True—'twas the devil that first invented it,
 But yet the devil can't make it—look—look, yonder—
 What a handsome crew they are—both maid and man.—
 [To the APES.] It seems the mistress is from home.

The Apes. Gone from home—to the rout,
 Through the chimney she went out ;
 Gone to carouse
 On the chimney stone on the top of the house !

Meph. Will she stay
 Long away ?

Apes. 'Twixt the time she comes and goes,
 We can scarcely warm our toes.

Meph. What think you of these dear young creatures ?

Faust. All makes me sick—voice, form, and features !

Meph. Well, I must own, I greatly relish
 The graces which their style embellish. [To the APES
 Tell me, execrable baby,

What the mess yon mingle may be—
And the lumps, my pretty jewel!
That are floating in the gruel.

Apes. A beggar's dish—we boil and stew it.

Meph. And most men, without knowing, chew it.

Old Ape [*fawning upon* MEPHISTOPHELES]. Throw the
dice—begin, begin—

I am poor, so let me win—
Me to win, and you to lose,
Is the way that I would choose—
Money's all in all;—the witch
Is made honest, if made rich.
Give me gold, and by that rule,
Who will say I am a fool?

Meph. As the Ape talks of gold, see his lips growing
watery,

I wish we could get him a share in the Lottery.

The Old Ape [*while the young cat-apes are playing and
rolling round a large bowl*].

Such is the world!
So is it twirled,
Now rolling onward,
Now rolling downward,
Ceaselessly, restlessly,
Still does it spin;
Like glass it is brittle,
And broken by little,
Glimmering, shimmering,
Hollow within—
Living am I—
Stop, my dear son,
Thy sporting have done,
Think thou must die!
All is clay,
And must crumble away!

Meph. What's the purpose of the sieve?

Ape. If a man comes here to thieve,
With this eye-glass thus we view him;
Raise it thus, and thus look through him.

[*Runs to the FEMALE, and makes her look through it
at MEPHISTOPHELES*

Through the sieve look there—look strait—
Read his features—read his fate.

Answer, if thou art not deaf—

Dost thou know him—the old thief ?

Dost thou dread, from fear or shame,

To name him by his proper name ?

Meph. And what's the meaning of the pot ?

Ape.

How silly a sot,

To ask what's what ;

The fool knows not

The use of the pot—

The use of the kettle—

Meph.

Unmannerly wittol,

Be quiet a little.

Ape. Be brisk—take the whisk,—and sit down on the settle. [*Forces MEPHISTOPHELES to sit down*

Faust [*who has been all this time before a glass, now approaching, and now standing off from it*]. What is this that I see—how heavenly fair

The form that shines in this enchanted glass !

Oh ! lend me, Love, thy swift and silent wings,

That I may fly away to where she is !

Near me she seems, yet hopelessly removed,

And living in another atmosphere !

Alas ! if from this spot I do but stir,

If I but venture to approach more near,

There seems a dusky cloud to gather o'er her ;—

Image of woman, beyond woman fair,

Oh ! beautiful transcendently—has Earth

Charms such as this—in that reclining form,

Say rather that all charms of many heavens

United are.—Can this indeed be woman ?

Can this, indeed, be a created being ?

Meph. Fine cause of wonderment !—after seven days
Of work, if he who made this pretty world,

And who admired his workmanship, made something,

Worth looking at ! Ay, gaze on her in rapture—

This, by the way, is one of these same treasures

That I am pretty safe in promising :

Blessed the man who brings the fair bride home !

[*FAUST continues looking into the glass.—MEPHISTOPHELES, lolling on the settle, and with the whisk in his hand, continues speaking*

Here on my kingly throne I sit me down,

With sceptre too—I only want a crown.

The Apes [who have been playing all kind of fantastic gambols, bring MEPHISTOPHELES a crown with loud acclamations].

Monarch proud—

With sweat and blood

Smear it—wear it—

[They handle the crown awkwardly, and break it in two pieces, with which they go dancing about

'Tis done—'twas to be ;

We speak and we see—

We hearken—we listen—

We rhyme and we reason.

Faust [still before the glass]. Alas ! I feel my senses leaving me.

Meph. And stranger still, even my head's growing giddy !

Apes. We have words, and we can link

Syllables that chime and chink ;

Sense unsought—thus is caught ;—

Every jingle is a thought—

Every word with meaning fraught—

Language, glib and random, thus

Does the work of thought for us ;

Let but your own fancy mingle

With the jargon and the jingle,

As you listen to the lays ;

Bring the meaning you are gleaning,

Give the poet all the praise.

Faust [as before]. My heart's on fire—let us depart.

Meph. This is the true poetic art—

And I have never met with prettier poets,

Could they but keep the secrets of their trade.

[The caldron, which the FEMALE CAT-APE has forgotten to attend to, begins to boil over—a great blaze arises, and streams up the chimney.—THE WITCH comes down through the flame with horrid screams

The Witch. Ou ! Ou ! Ou ! Ou !

Damned beast ! cursed sow !—

The pot has boiled over—the broth's overturned,

The liquor is lost, and the Mistress is burned !

Damned beast—

And what is this ?

[Seeing FAUST and MEPHISTOPHELES

And who are ye ?

What brings ye here ?

Who sent ye here ?
May fiery pain
Burn bone and brain !

• [*Dips the skimming ladle in the caldron, and sprinkles
the flames at FAUST, MEPHISTOPHELES, and the
cat-apes—the apes whine*

• *Meph. [flourishes the fan, and breaks pots and glasses].*

Broken, broken !
Hell-broth splashing,
Glasses crashing,
Payment for the words you've spoken !
It is all in sport, my honey !
Nothing but a frolic funny !
Keeping time, old carrion odious,
Fitly with thy voice melodious !

[*The WITCH steps back with rage and astonishment*

Knowest thou no more than that o' me,
Thou raw-boned old Anatomy !
Skeleton ! the devil blast her !

—Know you not your Lord and Master ?
Shall I dash the old deceiver's
Bones into a thousand shivers ?
Smash her, and cats, and crocks together ?
—Know ye not my vest's red leather ?
Know ye not the cock-tail feather ?
What mask is there upon my features.
To hide me thus from my own creatures ?
And am I called upon to mention
My name, my rank, and my pretension ?

The Witch. Pardon, my Lord, this rough salute ;
I do not see the cloven foot,—
And where are your two ravens ?—Where——

Meph. Enough, old fool,—for once I spare ;—
'Tis long since we have met, and strange
Has been, in such a time, the change—
The world's grown wise—in every movement
Is seen the Spirit of Improvement ;
Reform to every thing extended—
Among the rest the devil is mended ;
For court has left his wildernesses,
Thrown off his ancient savage dresses ;
The curling tail and talons horrid,
And horns to guard the wrinkled forehead.

All gone—the northern phantom's vanished,
 By modern education banished !
 —As to the foot—against my will,
 I bear that witness with me still ;
 'Twould injure me in the good graces
 Of some who figure in high places ;
 So, what I can, I do to hide it,
 And for the purpose, am provided
 With padded calves—and thus am able
 To limp no more than's fashionable—
 Many young men, that I might mention,
 Avail themselves of the invention.

The Witch. Satan again—my own old boy,
 Once more with me !—I'll die with joy.

Meph. Woman, that name—I beg to be excused—
 Call me not so again.

The Witch. And why ? and wherefore ? what the mischief ails
 The good old name ?

Meph. It has been too much used,
 And sounds like something in the fairy tales ;
 Is so familiar, that men deem it fable ;
 Men believe nothing now above the level
 Of every-day experience—they are able
 To disprove all things ;—don't believe a letter
 That speaks of me,—are they for this the better ?
 —Devils that they are, they don't believe a devil !
 Call me Lord Baron—no one can object
 To that, or some such title of respect.
 I am a cavalier, as good
 As any—am of ancient blood ;
 Look at my scutcheon, all who doubt it—
 See here—I never go without it.

[Struts about with pompous gestures]

The Witch [laughing immoderately]. Ha ! ha !—this is
 so like you—is so clever—
 You're, after all, the same gay rascal ever !

Meph. [to FAUST]. This, every day's experience teaches
 Is the true way to deal with witches.

The Witch. What, gentlemen, would you desire
 To drink ?

Meph. I thank you—we require
 A bumper—one will be enough—

Of—you know well the right old stuff.

Give us the oldest you have here.

[To FAUST.] Its strength is doubled every year!

The Witch. Most willingly—you need not ask

A second time—here is a flask.

I taste myself, now and again—

You'll not find any smell remain.

Here—take a dram—but if I give it

To him—you know he can't outlive it

An hour, unless some charm protect

His life from the assured effect.

Meph. He is a friend, 'twill do him good—

Thrives like yourself on witches' food—

There's nothing you can give that is

Too strong for such a stomach as his.

Come—chalk your circle—chant your charm—

Fill high the cup, 'twill do no harm.

[*The WITCH, with extraordinary gestures, describes a circle, and places strange things within it. Meantime the glasses begin to chime and ring; the caldron to sound and make music. Lastly, she brings a great book, places the cat-apes within the circle; one is made to serve her for a reading-desk, others hold torches. She signs to FAUST to approach*

Faust [to MEPHISTOPHELES]. No, no! I'm sick of the whole scene!

What good is it? what can it mean?

These raving gestures? and this rapid

Torrent of nonsense? filthy—vapid

And loathsome cheat.—I've seen such stuff

Before; and hated it enough!

Meph. 'Tis pure professional farce—mere fudge—

You should not be so hard a judge!

She is but acting the physician;

This hocus-pocus exhibition

Assists the cure—makes the draught operate

With good effect, and at the proper rate.

[*She makes FAUST enter the circle*

The Witch [with a strong emphasis, begins to declaim from the book].

Understand me let all men!

Of one make ten,

Let two go then:

Bid three
 Now be
 The square of three ;
 Thus the witch
 Makes you rich :
 Drop four
 From your score :
 From five and six
 You should fix
 To take seven and eight away,
 Then all is clear as day.
 And nine is one,
 And ten is none,
 This is the witch's one-times-one.

Faust. She seems in earnest, old deceiver !
 —How like the ravings of a fever !

Meph. There is an endless volume of this stuff—
 I ought to know it—I've lost time enough
 Puzzling it out—for downright contradiction
 Is, to the wise and fools, an equal mystery.
 My friend, in the old almanack of history,
 You'll find such jumbles made of fact and fiction ;
 And by the help of this, or some such juggle,
 Errors spread wide ;—truth suffers in the struggle.
 Doctrines are lisped by infants ; taught in schools,
 And are believed : for who contends with fools ?
 To customary words men still will link
 Their faith—poor dolts—imagining they think !

The Witch. The height, the might,
 Of wisdom's light,

The knowledge from the wide world hidden,
 Cheers humblest minds :
 Who seeks not finds :

The welcome guest is the unbidden.

Faust. This nonsense, so like meaning, splits
 My skull. I soon would lose my wits :
 Methinks, a million fools in choir
 Are raving and will never tire.

Meph. Enough ! enough ! incomparable sibyl !
 Hand us the drink—fill the cup to the brim—
 No thimblefuls for us—no niggard dribble—
 Fear not—such draught will never injure him,
 He is one of us, and of the highest grade :

Has drunk deep before now—be not afraid!

[*The WITCH, with many ceremonies, pours the drink into a cup: as FAUST raises it to his mouth, a light flame rises*

Off with it fast—why should you fear it?

—Once down, 'twill warm your heart and cheer it.

How's this? *my friend*, and much the same

As one of us—afraid of flame?

[*The WITCH dissolves the circle. FAUST steps out*
Meph. [to FAUST]. Now! out at once! you must not rest!

Witch [to FAUST]. Much good may it do! [*Aside.*] I hope the best!

Meph. [to the WITCH]. If I can serve you, sure you might

Command me, on Walpurgis night.

The Witch. Here is a song—a pretty glee.

Hum it a few times,—you will see

Some merit in it, and effect

More than you would at first expect.

Meph. [to FAUST]. Come, quick! be for the present guided:

This draught will do you good, provided

It gets fair play; but it requires

Brisk motion till the frame perspires,

And its full force is felt to dart

At once through each and every part.

And then, not sooner, will I teach

What joys the lazy hand can reach,

Of indolent voluptuousness.

The pleasures that our nobles bless;—

Soon in thy cheery heart, I trow,

Will Cupid rock him to and fro.

Already the young urchin lurks

Within, and in the spirit works.

Faust. Once more!—one other look into the glass!—
Fair form—too fair more than a form to be!

Meph. Come! come! no form the beauties can surpass,
That soon in living woman thou shalt see!

With this draught in him he will meet

[*Aside*

A Helena in every street!

VII

THE STREET

FAUST. MARGARET *passing by*

Faust. Fair lady, may I offer you my arm ;
And will you suffer me to see you home ?

Marg. I am no lady—and I am not fair,
I want no guide to show me the way home.

[*Disengages herself, and exit*

Faust. By Heaven, she is a lovely child ;

A fairer never met my eye,
Modest she seems, and good and mild,

Though something pert was her reply—
The red lips bright—the cheek's soft light—
My youth hath not departed quite !
She passed, her timid eyes declining,
Deep in my heart they still are shining—
And her light spirits' lively play
Hath stolen me from myself away !

MEPHISTOPHELES *enters*

Faust. Hearken here, sir, get me the girl ; and fast.

Meph. The girl !—what girl ?

Faust. She that this moment passed.

Meph. What—she ? she was but now at church
At her confession—I was there.

And, hid by the confession chair,
Was listening to her from my lurch.

Poor thing—she is all innocence—
Had nothing in the world to tell !
With such to meddle is not well.

Her purity is a defence,
That leaves the tempter no pretence.

Upon this child I have no power.

Faust. She's passed fourteen, if she's an hour !

Meph. Could Liederlich be worse than this ?
The profligate, whose folly is,
To think each flower of beauty his.
Calls it a purchasable trifle,
And every charm he sees would rifle ;
Thinks truth and honour but a name—
My friend, give up this hopeless game.

Faust. Sound doctrine this, most reverend,
I hope your sermon's at an end :
Now, once for all, conceited fellow,
I am determined on't, and tell you,
She must, this very night, be mine :
You and I part, if you decline.

Meph. Compose yourself—be reasonable—
If in a fortnight I be able
To make out opportunities !

Faust. A fortnight ! give me but seven hours !
I want no devil to help me then,
And ask no aid from any powers
But those belonging to all men,
To fool a child like this with ease,
And make her anything I please.

Meph. How like a Frenchman ! I regret
To see you discontented ; yet
Why thus impatient ? the delight
Is, after all, less exquisite,
Than when with some delay and doubt,
And difficulty fenced about,
You win the treasure guarded long ;
Play with the pretty thing awhile,
And toy and trifle and beguile,
And to your will the soft wax mould,—
As witness many a story told,
Of true love in Italian song.

Faust. But, fortunately, I require
No such incentives to desire.

Meph. Now, not to take or give offence,
Believe me, here all violence
Is useless—in a little while
The damsel may be won by guile ;—
A stratagem, perhaps, may gain
The fortress—storming it were vain !

Faust. Give me, meanwhile, some little thing

Of hers—a garter or a ring—
A kerchief from her snowy breast—
Show me the chamber of her rest !

Meph. To prove how sensibly I feel
Your pangs, and, if I could, to heal ;
I gratify, without delay,
Your wish, and take you there to-day.

Faust. And shall I see her ? have her ?

Meph.

No !

She to a neighbour's has to go,
And when I find that she is gone,
You may indulge yourself alone ;
Breathe in the very room where she
Hath slept, and dream of joys to be.

Faust. May we go now ?

Meph.

It scarce were pleasant

So early.

Faust. Make me out some present.

Meph. Presents so soon ! this promises
Speedy success—they all love dress !
Oh, I know many a place of pleasure,
Where such things are, and many a treasure
Buried of old, and soon will find
Some lure to win the young thing's mind.

VIII

EVENING

A NEAT LITTLE ROOM

Margaret. I would give something now to know
The gentleman who met me, though ;
He had a proud and princely air,
Is one of the nobility ;
Look on his brow, you read it there,
And if he were not, he would stare
With somewhat more civility.

[*Exit*

MEPHISTOPHELES and FAUST

Meph. Come in—tread softly—but come in.

Faust [after a pause]. Leave me, now leave me, I entreat.

Meph. [prying about]. The place is tidy and quite clean ;
—Not every damsel's is so neat. [Exit

Faust [looking round]. How calm ! how happy dwells
the tender light

In this still sanctuary reposing here,
And the sweet spirit of peace pervading all,
And blessing all.—Spirit of peace and love,
I give myself to thee ! Oh, love, whose breath
Is fed on the delicious dew of hope,
Be thou henceforth my life !

How round us breathe

In every thing the same prevailing quiet
And neatness, and the feeling of contentment !
—In low estate what more than riches are,
And this poor cell how very, very happy !

[He throws himself on the leathern arm-chair beside the bed]
Receive me, thou who hast with open arm,
Year after year, the generations gone
Welcomed in joy and grief : how many a swarm
Of children round this patriarchal throne
Gathering have clung—perhaps beside this seat
A happy child—I well can fancy it—
Even now she scarce is more—on Christmas eve
My love has bent her at her grandsire's feet ;
'Mong the good children each year to receive
The gifts that heaven's dear child comes down to give.
Kissing the good old man I see her stand,
Her young round cheeks pressed on his withered hand.

The spirit of contentment, maiden dear,
Is breathing in thy very atmosphere ;
I feel it sway me while I linger here.
The sense of neatness, felt in every thing,
Speaks with a mother's voice, and bids thee spread
The little table with its covering,
The floor with crisp sand crackling to the tread.
Every where round the hand beloved I trace,
That makes a paradise of any place.

Here could I linger hours on hours,
 Where dreams and meditative thought,
 And, Nature, thy benignant powers
 Within her virgin bosom wrought,
 As day by day each influence pure,
 Of heaven and earth her heart mature,
 And fain would welcome forth, and win
 To light, the angel from within.

[He lifts one of the bed-curtains

Here lay the slumbering child, her tender breast
 Filled with the warmth of happy life ; and here
 The heavenly image, on the soul imprest,
 Came out, as clouds past off, divinely clear.

And thou ? what brings thee hither now ?
 In this mad moment what art thou ?
 These softening of the heart ! and then
 This rage of wild desire again !
 Poor Faust ! has some magic cloud
 Befooled thine eyes ? thy reason bowed ?
 Else why this burning passion strange ?
 And why to love this sudden change ?
 Are we the sport of every breath of air ?

And, should she now return and meet
 Thee here, how would the boaster shrink
 Into the coward ! at her feet
 In what confusion sink !

Meph. *[entering]*. Away—I see her at the door.

Faust. I go, and I return no more.

Meph. This casket, with its jewels rare,
 I got it—but no matter where—
 Or—what was to be given instead,—
 Some things are better left unsaid ;—
 Quick—put it in the press—’twill seize on
 Her fancy—lull asleep her reason ;
 Then, guess you, how the dream will end.
 I got them for another friend :
 The casket and the trifles in it
 He thought might buy a happy minute ;
 And he was one who knew the fashion
 In which to woo, and woman’s passion ;

But child is child, and maid and lover
Play the same game the wide world over.

Faust. I know not; ought I?

Meph.

Can you ask it?

Perhaps you wish to keep the casket;
If so—and that 'tis avarice—
I wish you joy of this cheap vice
I'm glad the momentary bubble
Of love has burst—it saves me trouble;
And easier pastimes you may find
Than practising upon her mind.
My poor brain scarcely understands
What you are at—I rub my hands
And scratch my head.

[Places the casket in the press, and closes the lock]
Come—come—what do you mean? the object is
To wind this sweet young child to your wish and will.
And now—as I live—you're looking starched and chill,
As if you were going up to your lecture-chair
With Physics in the body standing there,
And Metaphysica in her grey hair.
Come! come!

[Exeunt]

Enter MARGARET, with a lamp

Marg. It feels so close, so sultry here,
Yet out of doors I thought it chill.
—When will my mother come? A thrill
Runs through my frame—I am, I fear,
A foolish, foolish woman.

[She begins to sing as she undresses herself]

There was a king in Thulé,
And he loved an humble maid;
And she who loved him truly,
When she came to her death-bed,

A golden cup she gave him,
Which none could better prize;
And ever, as he drank of it,
Tears dimmed his flowing eyes.

And when he came to die,
To his heirs his wealth he told;
Left all without a sigh
But his mistress' cup of gold.

As at the royal banquet
 Among his knights sate he,
 In the high hall of his fathers,
 In their fortress o'er the sea,
 Up stood the gay old monarch;
 For the last time up he stood;
 For the last time drained the blessed cup,
 And threw it in the flood.

He saw it falling, filling,
 And sinking in the sea;
 His eyes lost sight of it, and sank,
 And never more drank he.

*[She opens the press to put in her clothes, and
 perceives the casket]*

How came this brilliant casket here?
 I locked the press, I'd almost swear.
 The cover's beautiful—I wonder
 What it may be that lies under?
 Some pledge for money by my mother
 Lent to somebody or other.
 I think I'll open it—and, see,
 Attached to it, and tempting me,
 A riband with a little key.
 How very beautiful it is!
 I've never seen the like of this!
 Jewels and pearls!—At mask or ball
 'Twould grace the proudest dame of all
 Who glitter at high festival.
 I wonder how 'twould look on me?
 Whose can the glorious splendour be?

[She puts on the jewellery, and stands before the mirror]
 Oh, if I had these ear-rings only!
 Drest thus, I seem a different creature!
 What good are charms of form and feature
 Though poor maids are
 Both mild and fair,
 The world for ever leaves them lonely—
 Man may praise,
 Yet half he says
 Seems less like kindness than compassion—
 For gold he strives,
 For gold he wives—
 Alas! the poor are not in fashion!

IX

PROMENADE

FAUST *walking up and down in thought. To him*
MEPHISTOPHELES

Meph. By Love, which I condemn, and Hell's
Essence of fire—things can't be worse :
Oh, that I could be something else
Than what I am, that I might curse !

Faust. What ails thee now ? What pinches thee so sore ?
A face like that I never saw before.

Meph. I'd damn myself to everlasting evil,
But that I am myself the devil.

Faust. This frantic scene—what can it mean ?

Meph. Think, only think, that splendid set
Of pearls, I got for Margaret,
A priest has made his own of them.
Her mother, soon as she detected
The treasure, something wrong suspected.
The old hag o'er her book of prayer
Sits moping, mumbling, grumbling there.

Or, for she has a fine sharp nose,
Through the house prowling, prying goes,
On the scent to ascertain,
For the smell decides right well
What is holy, what profane,
She snuffled at the chain and gem,
Found not the smell she likes in them.
"My child," she said, "things thus unholy,
Or suited not for one so lowly,
Will seize and fasten on the heart,
And hold it till health, peace, depart.
To the Virgin Mary bring
These in humble offering ;—
Sinful things of earth we give,

And receive from Heaven, instead,
 Heaven's own food restorative,
 That our precious souls may live
 Fed on manna—angels' bread!"

At this poor Madge looked far from pleasant,
 Provoked at having lost the present:
 Why, thought she, is the gift rejected?
 Or he, who gave it me, suspected?

The giver is a rich man—must
 Be generous—and therefore just
 And good—and why should we distrust?
 The mother strait sends for the priest;
 He comes, and he enjoys the jest.
 His features brighten up with rapture,
 And thus he preaches o'er his capture:—
 "You feel the matter right, dear madam;
 These pearls—'twere wrong the poor child had 'em
 To them who strive is grace accorded,
 And he who conquers is rewarded.
 The Church will feel (we cannot question)
 No difficulty of digestion;
 Will swallow without fear of surfeit
 The ill-got goods that sin makes forfeit;
 Whole realms, their produce and their profit,
 She eats up, and thinks nothing of it:
 The Church alone, with conscience quiet,
 Can thrive upon this doubtful diet."

Faust. That this is false each day evinces,
 Or true as well of Jews and princes.

Meph. On this, he swept into his pocket
 Ear-rings and bracelet, chain and locket,
 And made no more of pearls and casket,
 Than if he pocketed a basket
 Of nuts,—then treats them with a lecture
 On vanity,—states his conjecture
 Upon the uses of affliction,
 And leaves them with his benediction.

Faust. And Margaret——

Meph. Sits in restless mood—
 Does nothing—knows not what she should—
 Thinks night and day on what she lost,
 But dwells on him who gave them most.

Faust. Poor thing! her grief goes to my heart!

Bring more gems—come—come—no delay—
The first, coarse common things were they.

Meph. [*in affected vexation*]. Mere trinkets flung in sport
away!

—My toil is nothing, nor the value
Of what I give!—

Faust. Be silent, shall you
Thus mock at me and my affection?
Act for my ends, by my direction.
Court thou the widow—tax invention
For sweet things—draw off her attention—
Come—come—you're dull as water-gruel,—
Up—up—away for chain and jewel!

Meph. My lord, I cheerfully obey. [*Exit FAUST*]

How a man fooled with love will fling away
Sun, stars, earth, heaven, upon the chosen lady—
All cheap as presents to a child on May-day! [*Exit*]

X

THE NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE

MARTHA (*alone*)

Martha. God help and pity me, and pardon
My poor old man! he treats me badly;—
Thus to go off—'tis very hard on
A wedded wife,—here pining sadly
Am I upon my lonely straw.
I loved and doted on him so,
His very will to me was law;
And for no reason thus to go
And die abroad [*weeping*]*—he must have died—*
Yet 'twould be satisfactory
If I could have it certified.

Enter MARGARET

Marg. Martha.

Mar. My little Margery!
Sweet child, what can the matter be?

Marg. My knees are sinking under me.

I've found another casket, one
Like that so lately had and gone,
Laid in my press—of ebony—
The rings and jewels in it are
More brilliant than the former far.

Mar. Your mother must not hear it, though,
Or straightway to the priest they go.

Marg. Look at them, only look at them.

Mar. Fortunate girl.

Marg. Alas, one gem
I cannot—can I?—ever dare
Put on in church or anywhere.

Mar. Come here as often as you please,
And try them on where no one sees :
Before the glass be whole hours spent
Adjusting every ornament.
We will enjoy their full effect,
With none your secret to suspect ;
Then as occasions come, a ball,
A dance, a day of festival,
We let them one by one appear—
A chain, a pearl-drop in the ear—
And coin some story or another
To keep the matter from your mother.

Marg. Twice to have had such caskets brought,
There's something in it more than ought ! [*A knock*]
Good God ! my mother ! I'll be seen.

Mar. 'Tis a strange gentleman.—Come in.

MEPHISTOPHELES enters

Meph. I've come unceremoniously ;
But, ladies, you will pardon me.

[*Retreats respectfully before MARGARET*
To Martha Schwerdtlein was my visit :
I'm told this is her lodging. Is it ?

Mar. Sir, I'm the person. What's your pleasure ?

Meph. I'll call when you are more at leisure :
You have a guest of consequence ;
I'll call again in three hours hence.

Mar. [*to Marg.*]. The funniest thing I ever knew—
The gentleman imagined you
To be some lady of high rank.
I can't but laugh.

Marg. I have to thank
The gentleman's extreme good nature.
I am a poor young humble creature :
These ornaments are not my own.

Meph. I did not judge by them alone ;
'Tis something in your mien and glance.
My visit was a lucky chance.

Mar. [*aside*]. To know what brings him, I am dying.

Meph. I wish I had news more gratifying ;
But blame me not, though sad it prove.
Your husband's dead, and sends his love.

Mar. Is dead ! the faithful creature dead !
My husband—would 'twere I instead.

Marg. Friend, let thy strong good sense prevail
O'er grief—

Meph. And hear the sad detail.

Marg. I fear at all to think of love,
Such loss my certain death would prove.

Meph. Grief waits on joy—joy follows grief.

Mar. Tell on ; it will be some relief.

Meph. In Padua, at St. Anthony's,
In consecrated earth he lies !
A cool bed under the church floor,
Where he sleeps soundly.

Mar. Nothing more ?

Meph. Oh, yes ! a death-bed legacy :
His last commission was to thee,
To have three hundred masses said,
With requiem service for the dead.
His last was a religious thought :
This is the whole of what I brought.

Mar. What, not a coin, no trinket token,
Nothing to soothe his poor heart-broken ?
Why, the most paltry artisan,
The veriest wretch in form of man,
Some small memorial still will hoard,
Some little pledge in secret stored,
To show his love is not forgot—
Will starve—will beg—but parts it not !

Meph. Madam, I'm sorry for his blindness
To the true value of your kindness :
'Tis your mistake, to think he squandered
His money—as he died, he pondered

The past—and, as his heart relented,
His sins and his bad luck repented.

Marg. Unhappy men! I weep for them!
He shall not want my requiem!

Meph. The sweet child! what a tender touch of
True feeling! that's the girl for me—
I take it you deserve to be
Out of hand married, and made much of.

Marg. Time long enough 'twill be till then.

Meph. You'll find admirers 'mong the men:
A husband in due course, no doubt,
I'll see to bring it soon about,
And if not married out and out,
With a gallant we can mayhap
Fill up as pleasantly the gap.

Marg. 'Tis not the custom of the place.

Meph. Custom or not, it is the case.

Mar. Tell on.

Meph. I stood at his bedside;
The rotting straw on which he died,
—Something less foul than dung, not much,
Infectious to the smell and touch.—
He died a Christian, and in debt,
Settled his scores with Heaven;—the trifle
Due at the wine-shop, is due yet.
“Alas,” said he, “I used my wife ill.—
Would die at peace, did she forgive.”

Mar. Poor man! I long ago forgave.

Meph. “But 'twas her folly, as I live.”

Mar. What! standing on the very grave
Did he say this? assert this lie?
And did he tell you it was I,
I who was wrong?—

Meph. He did: but out
The truth has come, and leaves no doubt,
He lied: your very countenance
Decides the matter at a glance!—
“Mine was hard work, you may conjecture,
(Thus ran his peevish death-bed lecture),
First, all her children to be fed;
And while I toiled to make them bread,
Not let to eat my crust in peace.”

Mar. What, will his slanders never cease?

Love, Honour, Truth, forgotten quite ;
Our tenderesses day and night.

Meph. Not so : he thought of you with great affection.
"As I," said he, "was late from Malta sailing,
I found myself in prayer ; a sudden rapture,
Following a burst of tender recollection
Of wife and children, and the prayer prevailing
Was heard on high. That day we made a capture ;
A Turkish vessel laden with rich treasure
For the great sultan : 'twas a gallant fight,
And valour triumphed, and was well rewarded :
And when they came the shares of each to measure,
I got, to say the least of it, my right."

Mar. What ? how ? a prize ? think you, he buried it ?

Meph. Who knows where heaven's four winds have scattered it ?

Bury it ?—no, his heart was far from sordid ;
That his death proves, his generous nature hurried it.
A lady, one of your nice Neapolitans,
As he was loitering in their pleasant city,
Looked on his loneliness, kind soul, with pity,
And saw his vanity—and soothed and flattered it—
Fastened upon him, led him such a jolly dance,
That with his cash, and him, all was soon over.
Marks of affection, too, she gave her lover,
Of such a kind, that to the blessed hour
In which your poor saint died, he felt their power.

Mar. Scoundrel, to use his wife and children so !
Ought not the poverty, which his neglect
Had heaped on us, his shameless course have checked ?

Meph. It ought ; and he is punished for it now :
But as this will not mend the case
I would, if I were in your place,
Put on my mourning, keep a good eye out,
And wed again, when the year came about.

Mar. Where could I find, in this wide world of men,
Any thing like my own poor man again ?
There could not be a creature kinder, fonder ;
His only fault was, he from home would wander ;
And when I think of him, my eyes are swimming ;
He was so good, without a single vice,
Except his taste for foreign wines and women.)
And the society they bring—and dice.

Meph. Well! if on his side he had only made Allowances as just and generous,
Your quarrels had been easily allayed.
Why, I myself—if you indulge me thus—
With such good sense—in a few little things—
Am tempted to propose exchanging rings.

Mar. Oh, sir, you are a pleasant gentleman:—
Sure you were speaking but in jest.

Meph. [*aside*]. I'd best be off: this vile old pest
Has her brains turned already with the plan
Of marrying me at once outright!
My only safety is in flight.

Damn her! she'll keep the devil to his word. [*To MARGARET*]
How goes it with your heart?

Marg. What means my lord?

Meph. [*as if to himself*].—The good sweet innocent
child! [*aloud*]. Ladies, farewell!

Marg. Farewell!

Mar. Sir! sir! don't leave us till you tell
One little matter more: I want a witness
To prove his death and burial—how—when—where—
Formally proved; and you will see the fitness
Of having it on record—'twould be pleasant
To have it in the papers of the week.

Meph. "At the mouth of two witnesses the matter
Shall be established."—By good luck, at present
There's one in town, who to the fact can speak—
A man of character and high condition.
He'll make the necessary deposition—
I'll bring him in the evening.

Mar. Don't be later.

Meph. And this young woman—shall we find her here?
She will so please him—nay, I do not flatter;—
A fine young man—has travelled far and near—
Is so admired—and so admires the sex,
And has so true a feeling of decorum.

Marg. I feel afraid—to meet him would perplex
And so confuse—I'd blush to death before him.

Meph. Were he a king—should it be thus?

Mar. The garden, then, behind my house—
We shall expect both gentlemen
This evening there—farewell till then.

XI

THE STREET

FAUST and MEPHISTOPHELES

Faust. How fare you? goes it swimmingly on and swift?

Meph. Hurrah! my friend—I'm glad to see your heart
On fire—she shall be yours in less than no time:
This evening, we all meet at Neighbour Martha's.
Of all the women that I ever saw
She is the veriest gipsy—is the one
To mould his Margaret to the doctor's purpose.

Faust. All promises well so far.

Meph. But we are asked
For something in return.

Faust. That's reasonable—
As one good turn, they say, deserves another.

Meph. We are only asked to make a deposition,
In proper form, that her dead husband's bones
Are lying decently interred in Padua,
Quietly resting there in holy ground.

Faust. Mighty fine doings! what a pretty jaunt
You have contrived for us!

Meph. *Sancta simplicitas!*
Why should we go? we are asked but to make oath—
This may be done without the toil of travel,
Or trouble of any kind.

Faust. Is this your plan?
If you have nothing better to propose,
The scheme is at an end.

Meph. Oh, holy man!
Is it there you are now? Doctor, is this your scruple?
Is this the first time in your life that you
Have borne false witness? have you lectured on
God—and the world—and all that moves therein—
On Man—and on "how thought originates,"

And that enigma, man's mysterious nature,
 The intellectual and the moral powers—
 Have you not dealt in formal definitions,
 With forehead unabashed, and heart undaunted ?
 Yet, if you did but own the truth, your conscience
 Must tell you—does it not ?—you know no more
 Of all these matters than of Schwerdtlein's death.

Faust. Thou art, and wert, and thou wilt ever be
 A liar and sophist.

Meph. Yes ; if by appearances
 Only you judge ; you, a philosopher,
 Should look a little deeper—you yourself,
 Ere two days pass—will you not ?—all in honour,
 As you would call it—fool this poor child's fancy,
 And swear,—your casuistry will then be silent—
 How from your soul you love her—love her ever.

Faust. Yes, and such oath is true—

Meph. —As any other ;—
 And then of everlasting faith and love
 Will be the talk,—of all-absorbing passion—
 Of the one feeling—felt but once—for one :
 Will this, too, be a language that the heart
 Can recognize as true ?

Faust. Peace, fiend ! it will,
 If that I feel, and if for the emotion—
 The frenzy call it, rather—I still seek
 A name and can find none—if through the world
 My fancy ranging seeks analogies
 That are, and ever must remain, imperfect—
 If words that speak of time be insufficient
 Even feebly to express this burning feeling,
 And that, thus forced, I call it endless—deathless—
 Eternal—yes, eternal—say you that
 Language like this is a Satanic lie ?

Meph. Yet I am right.

Faust. Hark ye—take this with you—
 I'll spare my lungs, and cease to argue further—
 But, as I said, take this with you ;—no matter
 What side a man adopts, or of what subject—
 If he has but a tongue, he'll not want reasons
 To prove him in the right : as now, for instance ;—
 I'm tired of talk—you then are in the right—
 You must be, sure, I have no help for it.

XII

THE GARDEN

MARGARET *on* FAUST'S arm, MARTHA *with* MEPHISTOPHELES.
—*Walking loiteringly up and down*

Marg. You do but play with my simplicity,
And put me to the blush. A traveller
Learns such good nature—is so pleased with all things
And every body :—my poor talk, I know,
Has no attraction, that could for a moment
Engage the attention of a man, who has
Seen so much of the world——

Faust. One glance—one word—
One little word from thee, I value more
Than all the wisdom of th' world's wisest ones.

[*Kisses her hand*

Marg. How could you think of it? How could you
kiss it?

It is so coarse—so hard—is spoiled with all work
On every day—how could it but be coarse?
My mother's habits are too close—my tasks
Are too severe.

[*They pass on*

Mar. And are you—are you always travelling thus?

Meph. Alas! that claims of business and of duty
Should force me to it. We feel pangs at parting
From many a spot where yet we may not loiter.

Mar. In youth's wild days, it cannot but be pleasant
This idle roaming round and round the world,
With wildfire spirits, and heart disengaged:
But soon comes age and sorrow; and to drag,
Through the last years of life, down to the grave
A solitary creature—like the wretch,
Who moves from prison on to execution—
This must be bad for body and for soul.

Meph. You make me shudder at the dreary prospect.

Mar. Be wise—secure yourself in time. [*They pass on*

Marg. Yes!—out of sight, soon out of mind.
 I feel this courtesy is kind ;—
 That you, who must have many a friend
 Highly informed, should condescend
 To speak with one in my poor station.
 Of such neglected education
 —In every thing so unimproved—

Faust. Believe me, dearest, best beloved,
That, which the world calls information,
Is often but the glitter chilling
Of vanity and want of feeling.

Marg. How ?

Faust. Ah ! that—singleness of heart,
 And absence of all artifice,
 —Gifts, as they are, above all price,
 Heaven's holiest blessing—should be thus
 Of their own worth unconscious !
 That—meekness, gentleness, the treasure
 Which Nature, who doth still impart
 To all in love, and lavish measure,
 Gives to the child, whom she loves dearest,—
 Should—

Marg. Think of me when you are gone,
 A moment now and then—of you
 I shall have time enough to think.

Faust. Your time is passed, then, much alone !

Marg. Why, yes ; and then our house affairs,
 Poor though they be, bring many cares.
 We have no servant maid, and I
 Must cook, knit, sew, must wash and dry ;
 Run far and near—rise ere the light,
 And not lie down till late at night.
 And then my mother's temper's such,
 In every thing she asks so much ;
 Of saving has so strict a sense,
 And is so fearful of expense ;
 So anxious, so particular :
 —Not that our circumstances are
 So limited, as not to give
 The means like other folk to live.
 The property my father had,
 And died possessed of, was not bad :
 A house, and garden here, that yields

Something worth while, and some town fields
Just at the gates. My days, somehow,
Are tolerably quiet now—
My brother earns a soldier's bread
Abroad ;—my little sister's dead.
Trouble enough I had with her,
Yet cheerfully would I incur
Ten times the toil—so dear was she.

Faust. A very angel, if like thee !

Marg. Even from its birth, the child I nursed—
And so it loved me from the first.
Born to distress—its father torn
Away by death, ere it was born.
My mother, worn out with disease—
We long had given her up for gone—
Recovering faintly by degrees,
Came slowly, very slowly on.
She had no strength—she could not think
Of nursing it—and so, poor thing,
I reared it ; for its natural drink,
With milk and water tried to bring
The creature on—and thus my own
It seemed to be, and mine alone—
Lay on my arm, and on my breast
Would play and nestle, and was blest.

Faust. This must have been the purest joy.

Marg. Yet were there hours of great annoy—
Its cradle was by my bedside :
It kept me half the night awake,
To make it quiet when I tried.—
At times must I get up, to take
The little urchin into bed ;
This would not do—then must I rise,
Walk up and down with measured tread,
And seek with songs to hush its cries.
Then daylight brought its tasks to me :
Ere dawn must I at washing be—
Trudge to the market—light the fire ;
And if I felt the trouble tire
On one day, 'twas the same the next.
I felt dispirited and vexed
At times ; but I was wrong in this ;
For, after all, his labour is

What gives a poor man's food its zest,
And makes his bed a bed of rest. [*They pass on*]

Mar. We women are the sufferers: who can make
Any thing of a dissolute old rake?

Meph. Yet have I perfect faith in woman's skill;
You may, for instance, make me what you will.

Mar. But tell me plainly, have you never met
One whom you loved?—thought you of marriage yet?

Meph. A blessed state—in Proverbs we are told,
A good wife better is than pearls or gold.

Mar. But is there none with preference you would
name?

Meph. All are polite and every where the same.

Mar. Have you no one in seriousness addressed?

Meph. With ladies can you think that I would jest?

Mar. You still mistake me.

Meph. I regret to find
How slow I am; but one thing to my mind
Is clear, that you are very, very kind. [*They pass on*]

Faust. And so thou didst, my angel—didst thou not?—
The moment that I came into the garden,
Remember me again, upon the spot?

Mar. Did you not see it?—I held down my eyes

Faust. And thou dost,—dost thou not?—the freedom
pardon

Which, as you passed from the Cathedral home,
I rashly took?

Marg. I felt so much surprised,
And was, I scarce can tell you, so confused,
And trembled like a guilty thing accused.
“Into his head could such a thought have come?—
What must he think of thee?—there must have been
Something improper in thy walk or mien;
Something that gave this gentleman to see,
Here is a girl with whom you may make free.”
Yet must I own I did not then detect
How my heart pleaded for thee, nor suspect
I with myself was angry, that, with thee,
As angry, as I ought, I could not be.

Faust. Sweet love!

Marg. One moment wait.

[*She plucks a star-flower, and picks off the leaves
one after another*]

Faust. Why pluck the star-flower ?
—Do you wish a bunch of flowers ?

Marg. No, I just fancied
Trying a little game of chance.

Faust. What mean you ?

Marg. You will laugh at me.

• [*She plucks off the leaves, and murmurs to herself*

Faust. What are you murmuring ?

Marg. [*half aloud*]. He loves me—loves me not.

Faust. Angelic creature !

Marg. He loves me—not—He loves me—not—

[*As she plucks off the last leaf with eager delight*
He loves me !

Faust. Yes, my child, deem this language of the flower
The answer of an oracle—"He loves thee !"

Dost thou know all the meaning of "He loves thee ?"

[*Holds both her hands*

Marg. I am all over trembling.

Faust. Tremble not !

Oh, let this look, this pressure of the hands,
Say, to thee, what no words can say : henceforth
Be our whole being lost in one another
In overflowing joy—that lives and lives
For ever and for ever ! could it end,
It were—but no, it cannot, cannot end !

[*MARGARET presses his hands ; disengages herself from him, and runs away. He stands for a moment, thoughtful, and follows her*

Mar. The night is coming on.

Meph. We should be going.

Mar. I would invite you to stay longer, but
We live in a censorious neighbourhood.
They seem to have nothing to think of or to do
But watch the doors, and who go in and out :
Do what you will, your doings will be misconstrued :
But our young couple—saw you them ?

Meph. They've flown

Up yonder walk—gay butterflies—

Mar. He seems

Caught.

Meph. And she too. 'Tis the way of the world.

XIII

A SUMMER HOUSE

MARGARET runs in ; conceals herself behind the door ; holds the tip of her finger to her lips, and peeps through the crevice

Marg. He comes.

Faust. Ah, rogue ! and do you thus provoke me ?
I've caught you at last. [Kisses her

Marg. [embracing him, and returning the kiss]. Dearest and best, with my whole heart I love thee.

[MEPHISTOPHELES knocks

Faust [stamping]. Who's there ?

Meph. A friend.

Faust. A brute.

Meph. Full time to go.

Mar. [comes up]. 'Tis late, my lord—

Faust. May I not see you home ?

Marg. My mother would—farewell.

Faust. Must I then go ?
Farewell.

Mar. Adieu !

Marg. To meet again, and soon.

[Exeunt FAUST and MEPHISTOPHELES

Marg. How many things a man like this
Must know ;—and I had but a “ Yes,”
For every thing he said ;—confused
By every word ; yet he excused
Each fault of mine. What can it be,
That thus attaches him to me ?

XIV
FOREST AND CAVERN

FAUST (*alone*).

Faust. Yes ! lofty Spirit, thou hast given me all.
All that I asked of thee ; and not in vain,
In unconsuming fire revealed, hast thou
Been with me, manifesting gloriously
Thy presence—thou hast looked on me with love,
—Hast given me empire o'er majestic Nature ;
Power to enjoy and feel ! 'Twas not alone
The stranger's short permitted privilege
Of momentary wonder that thou gavest ;
No, thou hast given me into her deep breast
As into a friend's secret heart to look ;
Hast brought to me the tribes of living things :
Thus teaching me to recognize and love
My brothers in still grove, or air, or stream.
And when in the wide wood the tempest raves,
And shrieks, and rends the giant pines, uproots,
Disbranches, and, with maddening grasp uplifting,
Flings them to earth, and from the hollow hill
Dull moaning thunders echo their descent ;
Then dost thou lead me to the safe retreat
Of some low cavern, there exhibiting
To my awed soul its own mysterious nature !
Of my own heart the depths miraculous,
Its secret inward being all exposed !
And when before my eye the pure moon walks
High over-head, diffusing a soft light,
Then from the rocks, and over the damp wood,
The pale bright shadows of the ancient times
Before me seem to move, and mitigate
The too severe delight of earnest thought !—

Alas ! even now I feel Man's joys must be
Imperfect ever. The ecstatic bliss,

Which lifts me near and nearer to the gods :
 This is thy gift ; but with it thou hast given,
 Inseparably linked, this vile associate,
 Whom I abominate, but cannot part :—
 Cold, insolent, malicious, he contrives
 To make me to myself contemptible ;
 And with a breath will scatter into nothing
 All these high gifts : with what officious zeal
 He fans my breast into a raging flame
 Of passion, to possess that perfect form
 Of loveliness ! Thus, from desire I pass
 On to enjoyment, and, uneasy still,
 Even in enjoyment languish for desire !

[MEPHISTOPHELES enters

Meph. Have you not had enough of this before ?
 A pretty kind of life to live for ever !
 Well enough for a trial. Come, come, let us
 Seek something new.

Faust. I wish you had something else
 To do than thus torment me when I'm quiet.

Meph. Well ! well ! and if you wish I'll leave you here
 To your delights—never say it again.
 Great loss to me, indeed, 'twould be to lose
 A petulant, unsocial, crazy creature
 Of a companion—kept the whole day long
 Busy, and never can make any guess
 From my lord's countenance, whether your worship
 Is pleased or is displeased by what I do.

Faust. Ay, there's the tone—that is so very like him :
 Tires me to death—expects me then to thank him !

Meph. Poor child of earth ! and couldst thou, then,
 have borne
 Thy life till now without my aid ? 'Twas I
 That saved thee from imaginations idle !
 I guarded thee with long and anxious care ;
 And, but for me, even now thou wouldst have been
 Idling in other worlds ! Why sittest thou there,
 Lingerin in hollow cave, or rifted rock,
 Dull as the moping owl ? Why, like the toad,
 Dost thou support a useless life, deriving
 Subsistence from damp moss and dripping stone ?
 Sweet pastime this ! most charming occupation !
 I fear you've not forgotten your old trade.

Faust. Couldst thou conceive what added life is given
In hours like this, passed in the wilderness,
And couldst thou feel it—still thou wouldst remain
The devil thou art—still hate and poison it!
Wouldst grudge the short delight—

Meph. Delight indeed!

Yes, transcendental rapture!—mighty fine!—
In night and dew lying among the hills,
In ecstasy embracing earth and heaven—
To swell up till you are a kind of god—
To pierce into the marrow of the earth
In a fool's fancies—all the six-days' task
Of the creation in thy breast to feel—
And in the pride of conscious power enjoy
I know not what of bliss,—to cherish love
That has no limits, but must overflow
Till it loves everything that is—till earth
And man's poor nature, in the trance forgotten,
Has passed away—and then the glorious hour
Of intuition ending—how it ends
I must not say—

Faust. Fie, fie upon thee.

Meph. Yes!

“Fie, fie!”—it does not suit your taste, forsooth—
Fie, fie! this mannerly word sounds very well
In your mouth now. The modest ears are closed,
And will not hear of what the modest heart
Yet cannot go without. Good, good!—a word,
However, upon what you said—I grudge not
To you or any man such pleasure, as
He now and then may feel, in playing tricks
Of self-deception; pity 'twill not last.
You are already blown out of your course—
Are almost what you were when first we met;
And, if you don't take care, will fret yourself
Soon into actual madness—frenzy-fever,
Or melancholy horror. For your own sake
Have done with this: your love, poor creature! sits
Within there,—you should soothe her! All with her
Is sad and gloomy—out of her poor mind
You never are: she loves devotedly,
Poor thing!—on thee she thinks—thinks evermore.
First came the flood of thy o'erflowing passion,

As swells, when the snows melt, a mountain brook
 Above its banks—and thou into her heart
 Hast poured the sudden gush: and now the brook
 Is dry with thee again; methinks 'twere well,
 Instead of reigning here among the woods
 On an imaginary throne, that you
 Would comfort the young monkey, and requite
 The poor thing for her love,—to her the time
 Seems miserably long—she lingers at
 The window, gazes on the clouds that pass
 Slow o'er the old town-walls. “Oh that I were
 A little bird!” she cries. This is her song
 All the day long, and half the heavy night!
 One moment is she mirthful—mostly is
 Sad,—then she weeps till she can weep no more;
 Then, as 'twould seem, she is at rest again.
 But mirth or grief, whatever the mood be,
 This all is love—deep, tender, passionate love.

Faust. Serpent—vile serpent!

Meph. [*aside*]. Ay, and one that stings.

Faust. Infamous wretch, begone! name not her name—
 Pollute it not—stir not into desire
 My half-distracted senses.

Meph. What is this?—
 She deems herself abandoned—and is right.

Faust. Off, viper!

Meph. You are raving—I am laughing:
 What a hard task it is, forsooth—just think,
 And let it cure your spirits,—you are going
 Not—as to look at you one might believe—
 Not to the gibbet—but to a fond mistress!

Faust. What were the joys of Heaven, though with them
 blest
 In her embrace?—could my disquiet be
 Stilled on her bosom? could it hush to rest
 This drear presentiment of her undoing?
 And am I not the outcast—the accurst—
 The homeless one,—whose wanderings never cease—
 The monster of his kind? No rest for me—
 No aim—no object; like the stream, that, nurst
 With swelling rains, foaming from rock to rock,
 Along its course of ruin,
 On to the inevitable precipice—

Plunges impatient down the blind abyss,
 And violently seeks the desperate shock.
 And—by the side of such mad stream—was she,
 —A child with a child's feelings ;—her low cot
 In the green field upon the mountain slope,
 And all that she could wish, or love, or hope,
 Her little world, all—all in that poor spot ;—
 And I—the heaven-detested !—was it not
 Enough, that the mad torrent grasped and tore
 The rocks, and shivered them to dust, and bore
 All, that opposed me, in my downward course
 On with me ?—Her, too, her—her peace—her joy—
 These must I undermine ?—these too destroy ?
 Hell ! hell !—this victim also !—Thy support,
 Devil ! and the dreadful interval make short !
 What must be, be it soon ! Let the crush fall
 Down on me of her ruin—perish all—
 She—I—and these wild thoughts together !

Meph. What ! in the fever-fit again ?
 How seethes and burns the muddy brain !
 —Idiot, go in, and comfort her.

Thus is it ever with the crazy pate,
 When difficulties thwart,
 Or unforeseen calamities occur :
 Fools, when they cannot see their way,
 At once grow desperate,
 Have no resource—have nothing to propose—
 But fix a dull eye of dismay
 Upon the final close.
 Success to the stout heart, say I,
 That sees its fate, and can defy !
 —Yet art thou, though of such soft stuff,
 In most things pretty devil enough ;—
 Of all insipid things, I least can bear
 That sickening dose—a devil in despair !

XV

MARGARET'S OWN ROOM

MARGARET. *Alone at the spinning-wheel. Sings*

My peace is gone,
And my heart is sore :
I have lost him, and lost him,
For evermore !

The place, where he is not,
To me is the tomb,
The world is sadness,
And sorrow and gloom !

My poor sick brain
Is crazed with pain.
And my poor sick heart
Is torn in twain !

My peace is gone,
And my heart is sore,
For lost is my love
For evermore !

From the window for him
My heavy eyes roam ;
To seek him, all lonely
I wander from home.

His noble form,
His bearing high,
The smiles of his lip,
And the power of his eye ;

And the magic tone
Of that voice of his,

His hands' soft pressure,
And oh ! his kiss !

My peace is gone,
And my heart is sore ;
I have lost him, and lost him,
For evermore !

Far wanders my heart
To feel him near,
Oh ! could I clasp him,
And hold him here !

Hold him and kiss him,
Oh ! I could die !
To feed on his kisses,
How willingly !

XVI

MARTHA'S GARDEN

MARGARET. FAUST

Marg. Promise me, Henry.

Faust. Be assured, my love.

Marg. Now tell me how you are as to religion ?
You are a dear good man—but, I rather fear
You have not much of it.

Faust. Forbear, my child,
You feel I love you, and for those I love
I would lay down my life. I would not rob
Any one of his feeling, or his church—

Marg. 'Tis well—but more than that—we must believe.

Faust. Must we ?

Marg. Oh, had I any influence !
You honour not the holy sacraments ?

Faust. I honour them.

Marg. But you do not receive.—
At mass or shrift 'tis long since you have been.
Do you believe in God ?

Faust. Forbear, my love ;
 Who can say truly, " I believe in God ? "
 —Ask it of priest or of philosopher,
 And the reply seems but a mockery
 Of him who asks.

Marg. Then thou dost not believe !

Faust. Misunderstand me not, thou best-beloved :
 Who can name Him, and, knowing what he says,
 Say, " I believe in Him ? " And who can feel,
 And, with self-violence, to conscious wrong
 Hardening his heart, say, " I believe him not ! "
 The All-embracing, All-sustaining One,
 Say, doth he not embrace, sustain, include
 Thee ?—Me ?—Himself ?—Bends not the sky above ?
 And earth, on which we are, is it not firm ?
 And over us with constant kindly smile,
 The sleepless stars keep everlasting watch !
 Am I not here gazing into thine eyes ?

• And does not All that is,
 —Seen and unseen, mysterious all—
 Around thee, and within,
 Untiring agency,
 Press on thy heart and mind ?
 —Fill thy whole heart with it—and when thou art
 Lost in the consciousness of happiness—
 Then call it what thou wilt,
 Happiness !—Heart !—Love !—God !
 I have no name for it—Feeling is all ;
 Name, sound and smoke
 Dimming the glow of heaven !

Marg. This is all good and right ;
 The priest says pretty much the same,
 But in words somewhat different.

Faust. Every where,
 All hearts beneath the universal Heaven,
 In its own language each doth utter it—
 Then why not I in mine ?

Marg. Made easy thus
 'Tis plausible—yet must it be unsafe :
 Thou art no Christian.

Faust. Hush, my child.

Marg. I grieve to see the company thou keepest.

Faust. What do you mean ?

Marg. The man whom thou hast ever at thy side,
I hate him from the bottom of my soul.
In my whole life, has nothing given my heart
So deep a wound, as that man's alien visage.

Faust. Beloved, fear him not.

Marg. The very sight of him makes my blood thrill !
To most men I feel kindness—but him
Do I detest ; and with a feeling strong,
Strong as my love for you—strong as my wishes
To have you with me—does a secret shudder
Creep over me when I behold this man.
He is—I cannot be deceived—he is
A villain ;—God forgive me, if I wrong him !

Faust. He's a queer fellow—do not mind his oddities.

Marg. I would not—could not, live together with him.
If for a moment he comes to the door,
He will look in with such an air of mockery,
And a half scowl, and a face dark with anger
Kept down—you see he has no interest
In any thing—'tis written on his brow
He feels no love for any living soul—
And when I am so happy in thy arms,
In the sweet confidence of love forgetting—
Forgetting every thing but thee, then—then
He's sure to come, and my heart shrinks and withers !

Faust. Foreboding angel, these are weak misgivings !

Marg. The feeling overmasters me so wholly,
That if he does but join us, straightway seems it
As if I ceased to love thee—where he is
I could not pray. This eats into my heart,
Henry, it cannot be but that you feel
In this as I do.

Faust. This is antipathy.

Marg. I must away.

Faust. Alas ! and may I never
Meet thee, where none can come to trouble us ?
One little hour—and must it never be ?—
Heart prest to happy heart, and soul to soul !

Marg. Ah, that I slept alone ! This very night
How gladly would I leave the door unbolted !
But then my mother's sleep is far from sound ;
Did she awake and find you there, I should,
Methinks, drop dead upon the spot.

Faust. Dear angel, throw aside such fears ; this phial
Take with you. Three drops of it only, poured
Into her drink, wrap nature up in sleep,
Deep tranquil sleep.

Marg. I must do as you bid.
Could I refuse you ?—'Twill not injure her ?

Faust. It will not : otherwise would I advise it ?

Marg. Dearly beloved, if I but look on you
I must obey—I cannot hesitate :
There is a something not to be resisted,
Which overpowers me—makes your will my guide
In everything ; and having gone so far
Already, is choice left me ? Having given
So much, what is there for me to refuse ?

Meph. [enters]. The monkey ! is it gone ?

Faust. Again
Spying ?—

Meph. Yes, and I heard quite plain
The doctor schooled,—the catechumen
Getting a lesson in his creed
And catechism, from a young woman,
Just now ;—I hope that it agreed
With you ! The girl's anxiety
For sentimental piety
Is soon explained. The man, think they,
Who worships in the good old way,
When his priest bids him kneels and bows,
Is likely to obey his spouse :
This of itself ensures his wife
A quiet, fair, and easy life.
The women fancy, and the fact is
Confirmed, or often so, in practice,
That their admirers are most found
Where your religious men abound—
Love is almost the same emotion :
The devotee—such is their notion—
Thus for the sex feels true devotion,
Courts amorous thoughts and mystic dreaming,
Is led by priests, and follows women.

Faust. Oh ! what a monster must thou be
To see not, or with scoffing see,
How this poor girl's affections lead
The pious creature thus to plead ;

The faith, in which she moves and lives—
That which alone salvation gives—
So she believes—may make her fear
Danger to one whom she holds dear;
Fear for the issue of a strife

Where more, she feels, is risked than life!

Meph. Most sentimental sensualist,
—Philosopher at once and beast,—
Led by the nose by a young flirt!

Faust. Abortion—spawn of fire and dirt!

Meph. [*scornfully*].—On Physiognomy she also lectures
Profoundly—feels, when I am present,
Sensations strange and most unpleasant:
—Suppressed malignity my smile betrays;
I wear a mask, forsooth, I will not raise,
And what it hides she sapiently conjectures,
Something mysteriously allied to evil,
A genius—or, perhaps, the very devil.
To-night then.

Faust. What's to-night to thee?

Meph. I've my amusements too—we'll see.

XVII

AT THE FOUNTAIN

MARGARET and LIZZY, with pitchers

Lizzy. Have you not heard of Hannah's pretty doing?

Marg. No, not a word—I've been but little out.

Liz. Kate told it me to-day—there's not a doubt
Of its truth. This comes of airs and impudence,
I always said her pride would be her ruin.

Marg. What mean you?

Liz. What I mean all know but you—
Why, when she eats and drinks she's feeding two.

Marg. Poor thing!

Liz. Poor thing, indeed! great pity for her!
Why, she was always finding some pretence
To be in company with this adorer
Of hers;—at every party—every walk—

How she made out a time for private talk !
 Would hang upon his arm, and still be seen
 For evermore with him, at booth or green.
 She thought herself so fine, none could come near her ;
 And then their feastings—cakes and wine must cheer her
 After their rambles : then her vanity
 About her beauty almost like insanity—
 And then her meanness—think of her insisting
 Upon his making handsome presents to her—
 Then came soft words, when there were none to listen,
 Then all a girl can give she gave her wooer !

Marg. The poor, poor thing !

Liz. And do you pity her ?

When *we* were kept close to our wheels, and when
 Our mothers would not suffer us to stir
 Abroad at night, or loiter with the men,
 Then were they on the seat before the door,
 Or in the dark walk lingering evermore ;
 Now for the stool and white sheet of repentance ;
 For one, I feel no sorrow at her sentence.

Marg. Poor creature ! but, no doubt, he'll marry her.

Liz. He :—he'll be no such fool—the de'il may carry her,
 For what he cares—they say that he is off ;
 He'll find another market soon enough.

Marg. That is not fair.

Liz. 'Twill be almost as bad,

We will so plague her—if she get the lad ;—
 The wedding garland, should she think to wear it,
 From the mock virgin shall the children tear it ;
 And, at her door, what fun we shall have, spreading
 Chopped straw, to greet the promise of their wedding. [*Exit*

Marg. [*returning home*]. How I would rail when some
 poor girl went wrong !

How, when it was another's sin and shame,
 Words of reproach would rise up to my tongue !
 It was, it was black—oh how black, and I
 Blackened it more and more—no words of blame
 This virtuous scorn of mine could satisfy—
 Others might fall, but I more proud became—
 I blessed myself, and held myself so high,
 And I who thus could feel—am I the same ?
 But could I—who could—have resisted here ?
 All was so good ! all was so very dear !

XVIII

ZWINGER

A Little Shrine

*In a niche of the wall an image of the Mater Dolorosa with
flowers before it.—MARGARET places fresh flowers in
the bowls*

Margaret Mother benign,
 Look down on me !
 No grief like thine ;
 Thou who dost see
 In his death-agony
 Thy Son divine.

In faith unto the Father dost thou lift up thine eyes ;
In faith unto the Father dost pray with many sighs.
The sword is piercing thine own soul, and thou in pain
dost pray,
That the pangs which torture him, and are thy pangs,
may pass away.

And who my wound can heal
And who the pain can feel,
That rends asunder brain and bone ?
How my poor heart, within me aching,
Trembles and yearns, and is forsaken—
Thou knowest it—thou alone !

Where can I go ? Where can I go ?
Every where woe ! woe ! woe !
Nothing that does not my own grief betoken ;
And when I am alone,
I moan, and moan, and moan,
And am heart-broken.

The flowers upon my window sill,
 Wet with my tears since dawn they be ;
 All else were sleeping, while I was weeping,
 Praying and choosing flowers for thee.

Into my chamber brightly
 Came the early sun's good-morrow ;
 On my restless bed, unsightly,
 I sate up in my sorrow.

Oh, in this hour of death, and the near grave
 Succour me, thou, and save !
 Look on me with that countenance benign.
 Never was grief like thine,—
 Look down, look down on mine !

XIX

NIGHT

STREET BEFORE MARGARET'S DOOR

VALENTINE (*a soldier—MARGARET'S brother*)

Till now, as round the canteen hearth,
 My comrades, in their drunken mirth,
 Would of their favourites gaily boast,
 And pledge with soldiers' glee the toast ;
 How on my elbow I would rest,
 Smile as each swore his own the best,
 And stroke my beard, and raise my glass,
 And when my turn to name the lass
 Came round, would say, " Each to his taste ;
 In my own home my heart is placed.
 Where is the maiden, any where,
 That with my Margaret can compare ?
 Is there than Madge's in the land
 A truer heart or fairer hand ? "
 Oh, then, how cups and goblets rang,
 While voices rose with joyous clang :
 " Right, right," in chorus, hundreds cried,

“First of them all—the country’s pride—
His sister is”—and dumb and tame
The boasters suddenly became.
And now—oh, I could rend my hair,
Could dash my brains out in despair;
Now must I feel my bosom gored
By daggers in each casual word,
And every ruffian’s sneering eye
And scornful taunt my patience try;
Gnawing my wrath must I remain,
And suffer and suppress my pain,
Nor dare say any word again;
As hears the debtor gibe and curse,
Who meets a claim with empty purse.
Avenge it—what can vengeance do?
Must I not feel the taunt is true?

See yonder! sneaking out of sight,
Two skulking scoundrels.—Am I right?
—’Tis he—would Heaven that it were he—
He scarce shall ’scape me if it be.

FAUST. MEPHISTOPHELES

Faust. See, in the window of yon sacristy,
How from its little lamp the constant light
Streams up—while, at the sides, less and less bright,
’Tis fading—till it dies in the thick night
That deepens round—and thus it is with me—
Darkness on every side around me spreads.

Meph. And I am like the thievish cat that treads,
Prowling along, up ladders and down leads—
A nibble in the dark—there’s no harm in it—
Or snatching on the roof a stolen love-minute.
Already do I feel the power,
The fun and frolic of the hour;
The advent of Walpurgis Night
Bids every limb thrill with delight;
Another night—another day,
And then the glorious First of May;
Then to the Brocken fare we forth,
Then learn that life is something worth.

Faust. Behold yon blue light glimmering!

Is that the treasure ? Lurks it there ?
And will it from the dark earth spring ?

Meph. Be patient—you shall shortly bring
The casket into open air :
I peeped into the secret hoard,
And saw the lion-dollars stored.

Faust. What ! merely money ? who would think it ?
What good is this ? no ring—no trinket ?
No ornament for the dear girl ?

Meph. Oh yes ; there are some beads of pearl.

Faust. I am glad of it,—it is not pleasant
To go to her without some present.

Meph. Is there then no such thing as pleasure,
But what you may by payment measure ?
I differ there with you—but see,
The heaven is hushed, and full of stars ;
Now for a moment favour me
With silence—while I sing some bars
Of an old song—a sweet old air,
Touched with true skill—a moral song
That lures the heart and will along.

[Sings to the guitar

Why, Catherine, stay
At dawn of day,
At dawning gray,
Before the younker's door ?
The merry blade
Lets in the maid,
That out a maid
Never departeth more !
Beware—beware,
And guard, ye fair,
Your hearts with care.
Poor things, beware of men—
Oh, listen not to any thing
They may say, or swear, or sing,
Till on the finger is the ring—
Beware, say I again.

Val. [*comes forward*]. What brings ye here ? whom
come ye to destroy,
Cursed rat-catchers ?—to the devil with the lure—
To the devil with the scoundrels.

Meph. Well done, boy.
The poor guitar is cracked beyond all cure.
Val. Now for his skull.
Meph. Now, Doctor, now's your time.
Courage—stick close—that's a brave fellow;
Haye at him—just do as I tell you—
Out with your duster—thrust away—
I'll parry.
Val. Parry that.
Meph. Child's play.
Easily done.
Val. And that.
Meph. As easy quite.
Val. The devil assists him in the fight—
My hand is wounded.
Meph. Now thrust home.
Val. Oh, torture!
Meph. The clown's done for—come,
We'd best be off—have not a minute
To lose—already is the cry
Of murder raised—and although I
Know the police, and have friends in it,
This is a very ugly scrape.
To manage it in any shape
Perplexes me.
Mar. [at the window]. Up!—Up!—
Marg. [at her window]. A light!
Mar. Railing and scuffling—how they fight!
People. [in the street]. One of them is already dead.
Mar. Seize on the murderers—are they fled?
Marg. [coming out]. Who is it?—who?
People. Thy mother's son.
Marg. Oh, God!
Val. I die—said soon—soon done!
Women, why stand you wailing, crying?
Will you not listen? I am dying.
Margaret, take counsel, you are still
Young, and conduct your business ill;
I speak in confidence—you are
A strumpet—throw away pretence—
Be one in earnest—there were sense
In this—be one thing or the other.
Marg. My God! what can you mean, my brother?

Val. Best let the name of God alone !
 That which is done, alas ! is done.
 The past is past—the wretched game
 You play is everywhere the same,
 Begins in folly—ends in shame.
 First one man visits—then, less private,
 Another ; soon the coy beginner
 Will welcome all, till she arrive at
 The streets, and is a common sinner.

When Shame is born, she shrinks from sight,
 Draws over her the veil of night,
 Trembles at every stir, and tries
 Of hood and cloak the mean disguise,
 Yea—unfamiliar yet with sin—
 Would hush the warning voice within.
 On moves she unobserved, unknown ;
 But bigger soon, and bolder grown,
 Walks, hand in hand, the broad highway,
 With Slander, in the eye of day,
 And as her features, marred and coarse,
 From hour to hour look worse and worse,
 While men behold her with affright,
 She stalks affronting the daylight.

Already do I see the day,
 When all, with loathing, turn away
 From thee, as from a plague-struck corse,
 I see the gnawings of remorse :
 —Abandoned outcast of the street,
 How wilt thou bear their eyes to meet ?
 Never, as once, the golden chain
 To wear in pride—never again !
 Never again, that fairest face,
 To shine at church, in the high place.
 And never more the dance to grace ;—
 No more in modest pride to deck
 With frills of snowy lace thy neck ;
 But in some filthy nook to lie,
 'Mong strumpets live—'mong beggars die ;
 And find, for thee, heart-broken one,
 Though God has mercy, Man has none.
Mar. Pray, dying man, for mercy ; dread
 To heap God's curses on thy head !

Val. Fiend, could I tear thy leprous skin !
 Procurest ! sordid slave of sin !
 Then might I rest, my conscience freed
 From every weight by that one deed.

Marg. My brother—oh, what agony—
 Brother, forgive—I grieve for thee.

Val. Cease weeping thus for me : thy fall—
 That was the sharpest wound of all.
 Fearless I go—as fits the brave—
 To God and to a soldier's grave.

[Dies

XX

CATHEDRAL

SERVICE—ORGAN AND ANTHEM

MARGARET *among a number of people.*—The EVIL
 SPIRIT *behind* MARGARET

Evil Spirit. How changed is everything
 With thee, poor Margaret,
 Since when, still full of innocence,
 Thou to this very altar
 Didst come, and from the little old thumb'd prayer book
 Didst lisp the murmured prayers ;
 Half with the children out at play,
 In a child's happy fancies, thy young heart,
 And half with God in heaven.

And dost thou, canst thou think ? . . .

Thy brain, where wanders it ? . . .

In thy heart oh what a weight

Of guilt, of evil done !

Prayest thou for thy mother's soul—

She who through thee did sleep and sleep away

Into undying agonies ?

And on thy door-stead whose the blood ?

And in thy bosom is there not

A stirring, that is torture,

And with foreboding fears

Makes felt the present woe ?

Marg. Woe, woe !

Oh that I could escape
These dark thoughts flitting over and athwart me,
And all accusing me !

Choir. *Dies iræ, Dies illa*
Solvat sæclum in favilla !

Evil Spirit. The judgment arrests thee—
The trumpet is sounding—
The graves are astir—
And thy heart,
From the sleep of its ashes,
For fiery torture
Created again,
Awakes up and trembles.

Marg. That I were out of this—
I feel as if the organ
Stifled my breathing,
And that the anthem was
Breaking my heart.

Choir. *Judex ergo cum sedebit,*
Quidquid lalet adparebit,
Nil inultum remanebit.

Marg. I feel so tightened here,
The pillars of the wall
Are grasping me ;
The arch above
Weighs on me.—Air !

Evil Spirit. Hide thyself—sin and shame
Will find thee out—
O, never were they hidden—
Air—light—exposure—
Woe's thee !

Choir. *Quid sum miser tunc dicturus,*
Quem patronum rogaturus,
Cum vix justus sit securus !

Evil Spirit. From thee their countenances
The sons of light all turn.
To reach to thee their hands
Makes the pure shudder—
Woe !

Choir. *Quid sum miser tunc dicturus !*

Marg. [*Fainting, to the girl next her*]. Your flasket, friend.

XXI

WALPURGIS-NIGHT

THE HARTZ MOUNTAINS

District of Schierke and Elend

FAUST. MEPHISTOPHELES

Meph. Would not a broomstick be a good thing here
For a tired man to ride? I wish I had got
A buck-goat, rough and tough—neck thick, trot quick
The road is long, and we are loitering,
The time just come—the place still far away.

Faust. While I feel firm upon my limbs, the road
Thus wild and intricate but pleases me;
And this knobbed staff affords support enough.
Why should we wish the way more short? To steal
Silently through the deep vale's labyrinth,
And issuing thence to climb these rocks, from which
The bubbling water gushes up for ever,
And streams a white precipitous cataract—
'Tis this—'tis this that makes such paths delightful.
The stirring breath of spring hath waked the birch,
And the slow pine already feels her power—
Shall we alone of all that live and breathe
Remain uninfluenced by her cheering spirit?

Meph. I can feel nothing of it—all within
With me is winter—give me the bleak snow,
And the cold ice upon my desolate path.
With what a red and melancholy light
The waning moon's imperfect orb is moving,
Casting faint, cold, unserviceable beams,
And making each step dangerous—lest the foot
Dash 'gainst some straggling tree or jutting rock;
I'll call a wildfire Will-o'-the-Wisp to light us.
See, there is one burns bright and merrily.

The freakish spark, look, how he flings away
 On the regardless night his spendthrift splendour.
 Holla! my friend, come join our company;
 Come, come, instead of wasting idly there,
 Come be the pilot of our perilous way,
 Move on, and light us through the desert moors. •

Will-o'-the-Wisp. Yours most respectfully—I'll strive to
 serve you;

But it is struggling against nature—devious
 And zig-zag is our customary course.

Meph. Ha, ha!—ha, ha! he thinks to mimic man;
 Go straight—for once—in the devil's name, go straight—
 On, saucy spark, on—or I'll blow thee out,
 Poor gleam of marsh-light life.

Will-o'-the-Wisp. 'Tis plain to see
 That the master of the house is here—my lord,
 I will be all I can be, to oblige you,—
 But, think, the hill to-day is mad with magic;
 And, if we should not go the straightest road,
 Remember that your guide is but a meteor.

FAUST, MEPHISTOPHELES, WILL-O'-THE-WISP
[In alternating song]

Into the magic world, the centre
 Of fancies strange and dreamy science,
 By a meteor led, we enter,
 His wild light our best reliance.
 Then, Meteor, guide us on in haste,
 Through regions lonely, wide, and waste.

Woods—how swift they vanish by us!
 Trees on trees—how fast they fly us!
 And the cliffs, with antic greeting,
 Bending forward and retreating,
 How they mock the midnight meeting;
 Ghastly rocks grin glaring on us,
 Panting, blowing, as they shun us!

Trickling on, through sward and stone,
 Rill and rivulet run down—
 Murmuring and rustling near,
 Voices meet and mock the ear;

Sweet sounds greet us from above :
 Are they—are they words of love ?
 Tender tones, that from the wild wood
 Whisper back the days of childhood ?
 All that was, when we were young,
 Eden to the heart, now meets it ;
 And the rock, with airy tongue,
 Recalls, restores, the enchanted song,
 And lingering in love repeats it.
 How the song of echo chimes
 Like the voice of other times !

Tu-whoo !—Tu-whoo !—the owl's in view—
 Nearer, clearer, comes his hooting—
 Through the dusk air see him shooting—
 The long-horned owl, with pinions gray,
 The blind bat born in circles dizzy,
 The crow—the lapwing—and the jay,
 Are wakeful all—all out and busy—
 See lizards in the green twigs tender,
 With heavy paunch and long legs slender—
 Every where strange sights we see—
 Are they what they seem to be ?—
 Here's many a twining plant that flings
 Round rock and root its serpent strings,
 And seeks to dart, in eager watch
 The heedless journeyer's foot to catch,
 From close-compacted living masses
 Its angry fangs on each who passes ;
 Every where around us playing,
 Many-coloured mice are straying,
 Numberless, 'mong moss and heather ;
 And the fire-flies crowd together,
 With buzzing motion, swarming, crushing,
 Round our meteor leader rushing !

We be strangers here who stray,
 Natives of the hills are they,
 Gleesome creatures bright and gay,
 Merry guides ! hurrah ! hurrah !—
 Wild the escort—wild the way !

Tell me, tell me, where we are—
 We have wandered fast and far—

Is our wizard journey ended ?
Is the Brocken yet ascended ?
Round us every thing seems wheeling,
Trees are whirling, rocks are reeling—
All in rapid circles spinning,
With motion dizzying and dinning,
Every thing that round us races
Makes grotesque and fiendish faces :
Swelling, puffing, multiplying,
On all sides wild-fire lights are flying.

Meph. Come, be alive—so far, so well ;
We're at the half-way pinnacle.—
The worst is over now—catch fast
My mantle, while we turn and cast
A glance beneath us on the mines
Where Mammon in the mountains shines !

Faust. What a strange glimmer stains the ground,
Like the dull heavy clouds around
The east, ere yet the sun ascends :
Far down the dusky hue extends.
For leagues below earth's surface spread.
A gloomy—thick—discoloured red,
Tinging the dreary sides of this
Desperate, hope-deadening precipice—
Here rises smoke, there vaporous whiteness,
But yonder what a blaze of brightness
On every object round is gleaming !—
Now in a narrow thread 'tis streaming,
And now the illuminating current
Bursts sparkling like a winter torrent,
Here, round the vale, you see it wind,
In long veins delicate and slender,
And there in bondage strict confined,
It brightens into burning splendour !
A thousand sparks, like gold-dust, sprinkling
The waste air, are before us twinkling,
And see the tall rock kindling, brightening,
Glow with intensity of lightning—
Turret,—'twould seem—and fence and spire
Lit up at once with festal fire.

Meph. Well, is not Mammon's princely hall
Lit gaily for our festival !
I'm glad you've seen it—the wild night

Bodes storm, that soon will hide it quite—
 Already is it swept from sight—
 Wild work is on the winds—I see already
 Omens that say the boisterous guests are coming.

Faust. The angry gale blows insolently upon us :
 How keen and cold upon my neck it falls,
 Like strokes of some sharp weapon.

Meph. Firmly seize ,
 The old projections of the ribbed rock—
 Else it will blow you down into the chasm
 Yawning below us like a sepulchre.

Clouds frown heavily, and hearken
 How the wood groans as they darken,
 And the owls, in fear and fright
 At the stormy face of night,
 Beat the air in homeward flight ;
 The halls of evergreen are shaking,
 And their thousand pillars breaking,
 Harken how the tempest wrenches
 Groaning trunks and crashing branches,
 And the earth beneath is rifted,
 And the shrieking trees uplifted—
 Bole, and bough, and blossom cheerful,
 Fair trees fall in ruin fearful ;
 —How the haughty forest brothers
 Bend and tremble !—how they fall !
 How they cling on one another's
 Arms !—each crushes each and smothers,
 Till, tangled, strangled, down come all ;
 And the wild Winds through the ruin
 Are howling, hissing, and hallooing !
 Down the valleys how they sweep,
 Round and round, above and under,
 Rend the giant cliffs asunder,
 And, with shout and scream appalling,
 Catch the mighty fragments falling !
 How they laugh, and how they leap,
 As they hurry off their plunder !
 Headlong steep, and gorges deep,
 Gulf, and glen, and rock, in wonder,
 Echo back the stormy thunder !
 —List !—I thought I heard a ringing

In my ear of voices singing—
 Above—around us—faint, now clearer,
 Distant now—now warbling nearer—
 Now, all the haunted hill along,
 Streams the maddening, magic song!

Witches in Chorus. On to the Brocken the witches are
 flocking—

Merry meet—merry part—how they gallop and drive,
 Yellow stubble and stalk are rocking,
 And young green corn is merry alive,
 With the shapes and shadows swimming by,
 To the highest heights they fly,
 Where Sir Urian sits on high—

Throughout and about,
 With clamour and shout,
 Drives the maddening rout,
 Over stock, over stone :
 Shriek, laughter, and moan,
 Before them are blown.

A Voice. Before the rest—beyond the best—
 Who to lead the group is fitter?
 In savage pride see Baubo ride
 On her sow about to litter.

Chorus. Baubo—honour to whom honour—
 Benediction be upon her—
 Forward, mother!—as we speed us,
 Who so fit as thou to lead us!
 Forward—clear the way before us!
 Then follow we in screaming chorus!

A Voice. Whence came you?

A Voice. Over Ilsestein—

As I past I peeped into a nest,
 And the night-owl, scared from her stupid rest,
 Fixed her frightened eyes on mine!

A Voice. O go to the devil—why drive you so fast?

A Voice. She grazed my side as she hurried past,
 And the skin is sore and the blast is chill :
 Look there—see where—'tis bleeding still.

Chorus of Witches. The way is long, and weary, and
 wide—

And the madman throng crowds on every side—
 The pitchforks scratch, and the broomsticks scrape,
 Will the child within escape,

When the mother, crushed to death,
Suffocating pants for breath ?

Wizards and Warlocks [semichorus]. Like the lazy snail,
we linger and trail :

Our woman-kind, as fleet as the wind,
Have left us far and far behind—

On a road like this men droop and drivel,
While woman goes fearless and fast to the devil. ,

Wizards and Warlocks [semichorus]. Swift they go, and
swift they go,

And gain a thousand steps or so,

But slow is swift, and swift is slow.

Woman will bustle, and woman will justle,

But yet at the end will lose the day,

For hurry and hurry as best she may,

Man at one long bound clears the way.

. *Voices [from above].* Come with us—come with us from
Felsen-see,

From the lake of rocks to the eagle height

Of the hills—come with us—to-night—to-night !

Voices [from below]. To wander above is the thing we love.

Oh for one hour of this one night !

For one mad dance on the Brocken height !

When shall we join in the wild delight ?

We have washed, and washed, and washed us white

Again and again—we are barren quite—

But our hearts are aglow, our cheeks are bright—

We have watched a-left—we have watched a-right,

And we hear the sound of the far-off flight

As they hurry away, and are swept from sight.

The Two Chorus. That wind that scattered the clouds
is dead,

And they thicken soon o'er the wandering moon :

She hides her head—and the stars are fled ;—

With a whispering, whistling, drizzling sound,

And a fall of meteor fires around—

Onward, onward, hurry, skurry,

The hell-driven rout of wizards hurry ,

Voice [from below]. Stop—stop—stop.

Voice [from above].

What voice is this

Calls to us from the abyss ?

Seems it that the words just spoken

From the crannied rock have broken ?

Voice [from below]. Stop—stop—stop—for me—for me—

Guarded and bound with slant rocks round—
 Stop—stop—stop—and make me free—
 Three hundred years moiling, three hundred years toiling,
 Hurry work—weary work—step after step ;—
 I grasp and I grope, and in time I have hope
 To climb to the top—sisters, stop—sisters, stop—
 I anoint every joint, and I pray my own prayer,
 In the May-sabbath night, to the Prince of the air.—
 Are you not my kindred ?—and why am I hind'ered
 From mixing among you, and meeting him there ?

Both Choruses. Brooms fly fast when warlocks ride 'em
 Rams, with those who know to guide 'em ;
 Broken branches gallop lightly ;
 Pitchforks, too, make coursers sprightly.

A buck-goat or boar is as good as the best of them ;
 Each man for himself, and who cares for the rest of them ?
 Many an egg-shell air-balloon,
 To-night will land at our saloon ;
 He who fails in his endeavour
 To join us now, is gone for ever.

Half Witch [from below]. Far away I hear their laughter,
 Hopelessly I stumble after ;
 Cannot rest at home in quiet—
 Here I cannot join the riot.

Witches in Chorus. Strength is given us by this ointment—

We will keep to-night's appointment—
 We can speed on sea, no matter
 Were the sail a cobweb tatter ;
 And a plank as weak and thin as
 Snail's abandoned shell our pinnacle.
 He who cannot fly to-night,
 Will never soar a wizard's flight.

Both Choruses. And when we've reached the topmost
 bound,
 Like swallows skim the haunted ground ;
 Far and wide upon the heath,
 Spread your circling guard beneath ;
 Watch and ward 'gainst treachery,
 With all the hosts of witchery.

Meph. The air is heavy and oppressive,

And the whirling din excessive ;
 Rattling with the ceaseless babble
 Of the tumultuous hell-driven rabble ;
 Sultry, vaporous, and sickening ;
 To a denser substance thickening,
 Burning noisomely, and glittering
 With fiery sparks for ever frittering,
 Poisoning every thing it reaches,
 Atmosphere for fiends and witches.
 But cling more close to me, or we will lose
 Each other soon—where art thou ?

Faust [from a great distance]. Here I am !

Meph. What, lost already—torn away so far—
 Then must I show that I am master here !
 Make way, good people, for my young friend yonder :—
 Room for young Voland—room, sweet people, room.
 Here, Doctor, cling to me, and with one spring
 We'll rid ourselves of the whole set at once.
 They are too bad—this raving is too much
 Even for me.—Look yonder at the blaze
 Of brightness—a distinct and steady flame !
 How different from all the brimstone torches
 And wildfire lights that madden round the hill,—
 It tempts me to explore that distant copse—
 Come, let us steal away from this wild crowd.

Faust. Spirit of Contradiction—well, lead on !
 I cannot but admire the bright idea
 Of wandering to the Brocken in May-night,
 To enjoy, forsooth, the charms of solitude.

Meph. See, see the lights ! how cheerily they burn !
 There seems to be a merry set assembled,
 A little party met of choice gay spirits.

Faust. Yet would I rather be above—see ! see !
 Where through the whirls of smoke bursts the red light,
 And glows and triumphs—in what hurrying waves
 Numbers on numbers evermore increasing,
 The thickening throng streams onward—still—still on-
 ward—

All under the resistless fascination—
 All to the worship of the evil One—
 The clue to many a puzzling mystery
 May be found here—to-night will be unravelled
 Many a strange riddle.

Meph. And strange riddles, too,
 May be proposed to-night, and not unravelled—
 But leave we the great world and its distractions,
 While we enjoy our quiet corner here.
 'Tis quite established that, in all large parties,
 The guests divide in small and scattered circles—
 See the young witches all are naked there,
 And all the old ones with coy bashfulness,
 Veiling their timid charms—come, come, look pleasant,
 If it were only to oblige a friend—
 'Tis not much trouble, and we'll have rare sport.
 I hear the music—curse upon their scraping!—
 But 'twill sound better when we're used to it.
 Come, come, I must insist upon your coming—
 Come—I must introduce my honoured friend.
 Well now, what think you? Is not this a long
 And splendid room? You scarce can see the end!
 A line of fires—at least a hundred, shine
 Brilliantly: what a scene of gaiety
 Of all kinds—chatting, dancing, drinking here—
 Cooking, and making love—can any thing
 In the world be pleasanter?

Faust. In what character
 Are we to know you—devil, or conjuror?

Meph. I travel, usually, incognito;
 But upon gala days the great display
 Their stars and orders.—I've no need to sport
 A garter—for the horse's foot is here
 In high repute.—See you that sliding snail?
 Eye—smell—touch—all gathered up into one?
 Hither she creeps—her trembling feelers out—
 Instinctively she knows that I am here,
 And touching—smelling—eyeing, on prowls she,
 Crowding herself together—wide awake—
 Out of her frozen sleep suddenly roused.
 Even if I wished disguise, it here would be
 A thing impossible—come, come with me.
 Forward from fire we saunter on to fire:
 Play you the lover where I introduce you.

[As they pass on, MEPHISTOPHELES addresses a party
 sitting round a few dying embers]

Old gentleman, pray, how do you get on
 In the corner here? Why—sure you ought to be

Alive, and flirting in some merry circle.
See, where the gay young girls are giggling, yonder,—
If you are thus dull, you might have stayed at home.

General. Who may trust a people's favour,
Though he fight for them for ever?
To nations, as to girls ungrateful,
The young are dear, the old are hateful.

Ex-Minister. Little now to prize or praise;
—Give me back the good old days,
When kings and courts obeyed our call,
And ourselves were all in all.

Parvenu. I was one of Fortune's pupils,
Disregarded doubts and scruples;
Thus her golden gifts I found;
Then, alas! the wheel turned round.

Author. How public taste declines!—they never
Read works that once were counted clever;
—And then the critics—all invidious—
Perl, prating, ignorant, fastidious!

• *Meph.* [*who has suddenly assumed the appearance of
extreme old age*]. I feel the world is waning into
age;

All things are ripening fast for the last day.
With feeble, tottering feet, for the last time,
I've climbed the witches' hill—the wine of life
Is low with me—and therefore 'tis that I,
An old man, think the world is on the lees.

Huckster-Witch. Who'll buy? who'll buy?—great bar-
gains going!

Rare things here to tempt the knowing!—
Stop and see them!—my collection
Well deserves minute inspection.
Such variety, in vain
Would you hope to meet again,
Of the curious articles,
Which your own old woman sells:
Rare and precious! every one
Hath on earth its business done.
Will you have the dagger knife,
That hath drained a brother's life?
Or the cup that held a draught,
Which was death for him that quaffed?
—This was from a royal feast,

And a queen had drugged the bowl :
 —This a chalice, and the priest,
 —On him a confiding soul
 Looked for comfort—poured in it
 Venom of the aconite :
 Here are trinkets—chain and gem—
 Young man, you should purchase them—
 Pearls, with which the wealthy donor
 Won^d vain woman to dishonour.
 Poor things ! poor things !—the best and kindest
 Fall soonest, for their heart is blindest,
 And feels, and loves, and does not reason—
 And they are lost—poor things ! poor things !
 —Here are swords, the gift of kings,
 That have done the work of treason ;
 Or pierced, some coward hand directing,
 The sleeping or the unsuspecting.

Meph. Old lady, you mistake the times we live in—
 Every one's heart to novelty is given :
 Throw out your box of relics—such antiques
 As these no creature fancies now or seeks.
 The past is dead and gone—the present passion
 Is novelty—this trash is out of fashion.

Faust. Scarce know I who I am or where—
 They crowd and rush as at a fair.

Meph. Forward the whirling crowd is striving,
 All driven along the stream and driving,
 All rushing on in one direction,
 And each enjoying the reflection
 That he to-night is his own sovereign,
 That his own thoughts his movements govern,
 Unconscious that the same broad river
 Bears down its wave each self-deceiver.

Faust. Who's that ?

Meph. Her features closely scan—
 'Tis the first wife of the first man.

Faust. Who, say you ?

Meph. Adam's first wife, Lilith.
 Beware—beware of her bright hair,
 And the strange dress that glitters there :
 Many a young man she beguileth,
 Smiles winningly on youthful faces,
 But woe to him whom she embraces !

Faust [looking at another group]. The old grey witch—
how she squats down—poor devil!
Panting for breath—half dead—fainting and floundering—
And the young vixen with her finds the revel
Rather too much for her—she, too, is foundering.

Meph. Nonsense, the fun will ne'er be over.
Advance, my friend, and play the lover.
Look, man, the girl's well worth the winning—
Come, join the dances just beginning.

[FAUST and MEPHISTOPHELES take partners

Faust [dancing with the young witch]. 'Twas my fortune
once to see

In a dream an apple-tree ;
Rosy apples—one, two, three—
With a glad smile tempted me ;
And to-night again I seem,
In the trance of that sweet dream,
Lovely is the tree I wis,
And the apple pleasant is.

• *The Young Witch.* Dear little apples—ay ! their price
Was more than gold in paradise—
And pleasant to the sight and touch
I come from gardens rich in such.

Meph. [with the old witch]. I had a troubled dream, and
it
Was haggard as a night-mare fit.
I saw an old tree torn and split,
And yet it pleased me, I admit.

The Old Witch. With lowest courtesy I salute
The gay knight of the Horse's Foot ;
The tree of knowledge, trunk and root,
Is his—and his must be the fruit.

Proktophantasmist. Cursed devils—how they murder
All attempts at keeping order :
All in vain it is to prove
To Spirits by what laws they move ;—
Mocking at all regulation,
Ridiculing demonstration,
See them onward still advancing,
Ghosts ! like men and women dancing.

The Young Witch. Who's this presumes to interfere ?
What means the forward fellow here ?

Faust. What—he ?—why he is everywhere—

He never dances—but he guides
 Opinion—disapproves—decides—
 On carriage and the true division
 Of time gives laws with calm precision.
 While others *dance* he *criticizes*,
 And all is perfect that he prizes ;
 And what he does not prate about
 Is but of small account, no doubt ;
 Nay, such his wondrous powers of seeing,
 What he beholds not has no being ;
 Our careless grouping must perplex him,
 But dancing forward's sure to vex him.
 The only figures he approves
 Are where the set in circles moves,
 Still turning his own humdrum round
 Within the same contracted bound,
 Holding, at times, grave consultation,
 Listening to him with veneration,
 As he with magisterial rigour
 Commands a change of tune and figure.

Prok. Still here ! defying me ! this rabble
 Of rude ghosts !—'tis intolerable !
 What ! restlessly still thronging hither ?
 Vanish from my sight—fade—wither—
 How can men say that spectres haunt 'em ?
 —The mind, does it not make the phantom ?
 Who and what are they ?—mere relations
 That we may see or not at pleasure—
 And here they come and—grant me patience—
 Mix in the dance—converse at leisure.
 I thought, that, by my labours brightened,
 The world for this was too enlightened.
 These devils—they rise, and in derision
 Of all I say, still cross my vision.
 What—beings, that have no existence,
 To mock each law of time and distance !
 Why, after this, the Tegel ghost
 May grin again at his old post.
 I thought I'd swept away these fancies
 Of plays, and poems, and romances !
 Still here ! with all the noise of Babel !
 These dreams of a forgotten fable !

The Young Witch. Silence, silence, old intruder !

Prok. What ! the ghosts are growing ruder—
How they heard me, in defiance
Of every inference of science !
Fiends, I tell you to your faces,
I will make you know your places !
What ! in public thus to fool us !
A mob of ghosts, forsooth, to rule us ! [*The dancing goes on*
To-night—why this is Goblin-hall,
Spirits and spectres all in all.
My comments—what are they ?—the cavils,
Of a sour cynic on his travels,
A passing stranger's jealous spite.
—But Time will set the matter right,
Good sense assert its proper power,
Dethrone the tyrant of the hour,
And take revenge on my tormentors.
Goblins, and ghosts, and ghost-inventors !

Meph. He'll throw himself into a puddle !
There will he, stupefying, muddle,
•Till leeches, clinging to his body,
Are weary of their banquet bloody :
For spirits sinking—spirits rising
The one cure is phlebotomizing ;
Delusions vanish soon—the leech
Diseases of the head can reach
And cure them—biting on the breech—
Blue devils fade fast, and, disappearing,
Smile on the sage with aspect cheering.
The brain will thus correct and clear its
Vague whims, and vexing thoughts of spirits.
—Why have you quitted thus already
Your sweet and captivating lady,
Who sang so lovingly and well,
And danced so——

Faust. Why, I fear to tell ;
But from her mouth, while she was singing,
I saw a little red mouse springing.

Meph. Why start at trifles, my good fellow ?
'Tis well it was not grey or yellow.
What can these dull suspicions profit ?
The mouse—why make a mountain of it ?
A pretty sort of reason this is
To fly a loving lady's kisses.

Faust. And then I saw——

Meph. What ?

Faust. Look, Mephisto, there,

See you far off, and shadow-like, a fair
Pale form—a lovely girl—almost a child—
Standing alone—with sweet eyes, sad and mild ?
She looks on us—she moves—she leaves the place—
Her feet are bound—she slides with mournful pace.
I cannot from my heart dispel the wild,
Strange thought, that her's is my own Margaret's face.

Meph. Repel that thought ; 'tis but an idle trick
Of heated fancy, and the form you see
Is nothing but a magic mockery,
To gaze on it most dangerous may be.
Charmed by its marble stare, the blood grows thick
And hardens into marble ; but ere now
You must have heard of pale Medusa's brow.

Faust. Ah, no ! a corpse's eyes are those
Whose lids no loving fingers close.
'Tis she—that form—that face—that breast
So often to my bosom prest.

Meph. Fool ! 'tis delusion ! every lover
Would there his charmer's looks discover.

Faust. What mirth is here—and, oh ! what grief—my
glance
Still—still returns to that pale countenance ;
And see around her neck a slender chain,
That stripes the snowy skin with crimson stain :
Scarce broader than a knife's thin edge it gleams—
A strangely chosen ornament it seems.

Meph. Yes, you are right ; for I can see it too.
—But think no more of it than others do.
Be not surprised, if you should see her carry
Her head under her arm—'twere like enough ;
For since the day that Perseus cut it off,
Such things are not at all extraordinary.
But see, all others here are pleasant ;
Cease moping, and enjoy the present :
All around the hill is merriment—
Try thou the same experiment.
Never did crowded capital
A gayer throng together call ;
And if my senses do not err,

Yonder's an open theatre.

—Well, what's your business?

Servibilis. We are just beginning—
'Tis a new piece—the last of seven—seven is
The customary number here—'twas written
By a young amateur of fancy—the actors
Are dilettanti all—your pardon, gentlemen,
But I must vanish—I'm an amateur
Myself—and for this one night draw the curtain.

Meph. Blocksberg for ever!—not a player
On earth but merits to be there!

XXII

WALPURGIS-NIGHT'S DREAM

OR,

THE GOLDEN BRIDAL OF OBERON AND TITANIA

AN INTERLUDE

Manager. To-day our trouble is but small.

No need of nice machinery;
A valley moist and hill are all
The necessary scenery.

Herald. 'Mong mortals with the fiftieth year
Of wedlock comes the Golden Feast—
A happier feast of gold is here
Commemorating discord ceast.

Oberon. Subject spirits, crowd the scene,
Celebrate, with exultation,
The union of your king and queen,
This happy reconciliation.

Puck. Here comes Puck—you'll always find me
Circling in the merry dance,
And a hundred more behind me
Twinkling joyous feet advance.

Ariel. Sweet, heavenly sweet is Ariel's song.
What a crowd of hideous features
The music wins, and what a throng
Follows me of lovely creatures !

Oberon. Men and wives who would agree,
We invite your imitation ;
The only certain recipe
For dying love is separation.

Titania. If wife be cross, and husband fuming,
To make them know each other's worth,
To the South Pole take the woman,
And her husband to the North.

The Whole Orchestra. Insect swarms, in murmuring
flight,
Our musicians of the night,
Fly, and gnat, and bee, and beetle,
Ply mouth, nose, and winglet little,
Crickets, chirping, 'mong the bushes,
And hoarse frogs croaking from the rushes.

Solo. Hear the drowsy bagpipe groan,
The bag's a soap-blown bubble airy,
And grumbling through the winding drone
Come sullen sounds extraordinary.

Embryo Spirit. Spider's foot and lizard's belly,
And winglets for the embryo !
The animated lump of jelly
Writes verses of the smoothest flow.

Partners dancing. Little steps—light, springy leaps
Through honey-dew and field-flowers fragrant ;
How pleasant, but that something keeps
From fields of air the willing vagrant !

Inquisitive Traveller. A thousand figures here bur-
lesque
A masquerade's wild gaiety,
And mingling with the groups grotesque,
See Oberon the little deity.

Orthodox Divine. What! without claws—without a tail!

Yet all whose thoughts are sober on
Such serious subjects know too well
The “Gods of Greece” and Oberon.

Artist from the North. As yet my works are sketches
merely,

Though you'll admit done prettily,
But I've made my arrangements nearly
For travelling in Italy.

Formalist. What sinful, riotous excesses!

Fool that I was to join the crowd here—
Such shockingly indecent dresses!
And but a witch in two wears powder!

Young Witch. Keep powder, patch, and petticoat
For grey-haired hags—skins smeared and
sooty—

While I sit fearless on my goat
In the free pride of naked beauty.

Matron. For scolding we've too much politeness—

Sneers like this are best forgotten.
Rosy cheek, and soft neck's whiteness,
May they soon be coarse and rotten!

Leader of the Band. Insect-harpers, as you wander

Round the hall in many a ringlet,
Spare the naked beauty yonder
Wound of sting, or touch of winglet.

Grasshoppers from the green bushes,
Brown frogs croaking from the rushes,
Brave musicians for the night,
Watch that the tune and time go right.

Weathercock [*pointing in one direction*]. Well, what a
brilliant company!

The girls how fair and unaffected!
And not a man but seems to be
For beauty from mankind selected!

Weathercock [*pointing in the opposite direction*]. What
devils all ! unless the ground
Should cleave asunder to receive them,
I'll fly from this place, with one bound,
To hell, or any where, to leave 'em.

Xenien. Small as insects, here we bring
Our little shears ; the crops we gather
Will be a grateful offering
To Satan, our liege lord and father !

Hennings. What merry groups are crowding there :
Up to every frolic started ;
And when they're gone—I won't say where—
We call them foolish, but good-hearted.

Musaget. Oh happy, happy bard ! whom chance
To such a circle introduces.
With these I'd rather lead the dance
Than be Apollo with the muses.

Genius of the Old Times. Come, follow me through smooth
and rough ;
Cling close—there's little need of ceremony.
On Blocksberg we'll find room enough,
The wide Parnassus 'tis of Germany.

Inquisitive Traveller. What's yonder pompous fellow's
name ?
With long and solemn strides he's pacing,
And, like a dog that snuffs the game,
The Jesuits, methinks, he's tracing.

Crane. I seek my prey in waters clear,
I seek it in the troubled rivers ;
This scene is my delight, for here
Are devils mixed with true believers.

Worldling. For true believers every thing
Works good in all ways unexpected ;
With hymns the Blocksberg rocks shall ring,
From many a convent here erected.

Dancer. Is this another company,
 With trumpets sounding—banners glittering?
 No; 'tis the boreal lights I see;
 From marshes hear the booming bittern.

Dancing-master. Devils—how they fling and jump—
 Through the figure flounce and scuffle;
 Spite of wooden leg and hump,
 How they caper, cut, and shuffle!

Fiddler. Hatred in every heart! the tone
 Of Orpheus' lyre, with charm celestial,
 Soothed brutes; to-night the bagpipe's drone
 Tames into peace the blind and bestial!

Dogmatist. Well, I'll maintain it—spite of sneer,
 Or argument, or gibe uncivil—
 I see a thousand devils here,
 Which proves the being of a devil.

Idealist. Imagination's power to-night
 For my sensorium too intense is;
 If I be all that meets my sight,
 Then surely I have lost my senses.

Realist. Reality . . . is torturing me;
 I'm wearied with this scene of wonder;
 The ground—it seems the ground to be—
 Gives way my tottering feet from under.

Supernaturalist. Here, for my system, as I rove,
 Delighted I derive assistance;
 If there be devils, it must prove
 Of angels also the existence.

Sceptic. Misled they follow fairy rays,
 That promise gold with gay delusion:
 Devil and Doubt, the proverb says,
 And both increase to-night's confusion.

Leader of the Band. Grasshopper among the bushes,
 Brown frog croaking from the rushes,

Hell and all its devils haunt ye,
 Good-for-nothing dilettanti—
 Pretty sort of harmony,
 Nose of gnat and snout of fly.

Shrewd Fellows. Call us *Sans-souci*—for you know
 That each of us, a gay philosopher,
 If on his feet he cannot go,
 Walks on his head, nor fears a toss over.

Awkward Clumsy Creatures. Oh once, Heaven help us !
 we could dance ;
 How pompously we then did swagger !
 Now shoes out-worn, and sore feet torn,
 Along the course we faintly stagger.

Will-o'-the-Wisps. From the sink and slough we come,
 From the hole of steaming nitre ;
 And yet, in all this dazzling room,
 Shine there sparks more gay or brighter ?

Falling Star. Rapidly I shot from high,
 With fiery course in brightness starry ;
 Here broken on the grass I lie,
 With none to help me, none to carry.

Heavy Bodies. Places---places—round go we—
 Where we dance how bare the sod is ;
 Spirits move, and all may see
 Spirits have substantial bodies.

Puck. Like awkward elephants they thump
 The ground with clumsy hoofs and heavy,
 Strange shadows ! Puck alone is plump,
 The sleekest spirit at the levee.

Ariel. If wings be yours—boon Nature's gift—
 And if the spirit so disposes,
 Then follow Ariel—follow swift—
 Your guide to yonder hill of roses.

Orchestra [*pianissimo*]. Daylight !—the cloud-built stage
 —the wreaths
 Of vapour,—where are they ?
 On reed and rush the free air breathes,
 And sweeps the dream away.

XXIII

GLOOMY DAY

A PLAIN

FAUST. MEPHISTOPHELES

Faust. In misery—in despair—long wandering in wretchedness over the wide world ; and now taken up—shut up in the prison as a malefactor—this gentle, unhappy creature—for horrid tortures. To this—and has it come to this ? Treacherous, worthless Spirit ! and this hast thou been concealing from me ! Stand, there, stand ! Ay ! roll the devil eyes furiously round in thy head—ay ! stand and defy me with thy unsupportable presence. Taken up—in distress irretrievable—given over to evil spirits—abandoned to—man—man that passes judgment, and is devoid of feeling ; and all this, while you have been lulling and rocking me and deluding me among loathsome dissipations, and hiding from me her continually increasing wretchedness, and have left her to perish without help !

Meph. She is not the first !

Faust. Dog ! abhorred monster ! turn him, oh, thou infinite Spirit, turn the reptile again into his dog's shape, in which it was often his pleasure to scamper before me by night, to roll before the feet of the unthinking passer-by, and as he fell to fasten on his shoulders. Turn him again into his darling shape, that he may crouch upon his belly before me in the sand, and that I may trample upon him with my foot—the outcast ! Not the first ! Misery—misery—by no human soul is it to be fathomed how more than one creature should have sunk into the depths of this distress—that the first should not have suffered enough in her agonising tortures to secure the atonement of all the rest before the eyes of the All-merciful ! I feel marrow and life harrowed up by the misery of this one—

only this one ! thou art grinning calmly over the fate of thousands !

Meph. At our wits' end we are again, it would seem, already—just where you mortals find the overstrained faculties snap. Why seek our society, if you cannot go through with it ? Think of flying, and yet art not proof against dizziness ! Did we force ourselves upon thee ? or thou thyself upon us ?

Faust. Show not thy thirsty teeth thus defyingly—I loathe thee. Great, glorious Spirit ! thou who didst deign to appear to me, thou who knowest my very heart and soul ; why hast thou chained me with this companion who feeds on mischief, and battens on destruction ?

Meph. Are you done ?

Faust. Save her, or woe to thee ! the most horrible curse on thee for thousands of years.

Meph. I cannot loosen the avenger's fetters—I cannot open his bolts. Save her ! Who was it that threw her into ruin—I or thou ? [FAUST looks wildly around

Art thou grasping for the thunder ? Well that it has not been given to you wretched mortals ! To dash to pieces one who stands in your way—however innocent—that is just the tyrant's way of rescuing himself in every perplexity.

Faust. Take me thither—she shall be free !

Meph. The danger to which you expose yourself—have you thought of that ? The guilt of blood shed by your hand still lies on the town. Over the place where the murder was committed avenging spirits are hovering and watching for the returning murderer.

Faust. That, too, and from thee ? Murder and death of a world upon thee, monster ! Take me thither, I say, and set her at liberty.

Meph. I will,—and all I can do I will. What that all is, listen till I tell you. Have I all power in heaven and on earth ? I will cloud the gaoler's senses. Do you possess yourself of the keys, and carry her off with human hand. Meanwhile I watch ; the magic horses are ready, and I take you away. This much I can do.

Faust. Up and away !

XXIV

NIGHT

OPEN PLAIN

FAUST and MEPHISTOPHELES *rushing along on Black Horses*

Faust. What are the figures near the gibbet doing?
Weaving, 'twould seem!

Meph. No—rather boiling, brewing
Some filthy broth—mumbling some incantation.

Faust. East they move, and west they move—now kneel,
now bend down in prostration.

Meph. Witches worshipping their master.

Faust. They scatter something on the earth, and now
seem pouring a libation—
They sprinkle something in the air.

Meph. Forward! forward!—faster! faster!

XXV

DUNGEON

Faust [*with a bunch of keys and a lamp, before an iron wicket*]. 'Tis many a day since I have trembled thus.
Misery on misery heaped—a heavy burden,
More than man can endure, has weighed me down.
And here within these damp walls doth she live,
And is to die because she was deluded—
To die for that her brain was wild and frenzied.
And thou dost hesitate to go to her!
Dost fear to look upon that face again!
Onward, irresolute!—this wavering
Delays not death.

[*He takes hold of the lock.—Singing from within*
My mother ! my mother !

The wanton woman—My mother hath slain me.

My father, inhuman, for supper hath ta'en me—

My little sister hath, one by one,

Laid together each small white bone,

'Mong almond blossoms to sleep in the cool ;

And I woke me a wood-bird beautiful.

Fly away, fly away, all the long summer-day,

Little bird of the woods, fly away ! fly away !

Faust [*opening the wicket*]. She feels not that her love
 is listening—

Hear the chains, as they clank, and the straw rustling.

[*He enters*

Marg. [*hiding her face in the straw of her bed*]. Woe !

woe ! they come ! they come ! —death, bitter death !

Faust [*in a low voice*]. Hush ! hush ! 'tis I who come
 to rescue thee !

Marg. [*rolling herself at his feet*]. Art thou a man ?
 Have pity upon me.

Faust. Hush ! hush ! these screams and shrieks will
 wake the keepers.

[*He takes hold of the chains to unlock them*

Marg. [*throwing herself on her knees to him*]. Savage,
 who gave this cruel power to thee ?

It is not more than midnight now—have mercy !

Is it too long a time to wait till morn ? [*She stands up*

And I am still so young—so very young !

And must I die so soon ?—and I was fair—

And I was fair, and that was my undoing.

Oh, if my love were here—but he is gone—

Torn is my garland—scattered all its flowers—

Oh, do not grasp me with such violence—

Ah, spare me ! sure I have not injured thee :

Let me not weep and pray to thee in vain !

Spare me—I never saw thy face before.

Faust. I must—I must endure this misery !

Marg. I know that I am wholly in thy power—

Only permit me first to give my breast

To this poor child of mine : all the long night

I hugged it to my heart, they took it from me ;

They took away my child to torture me,

And now they say that I have murdered it,

And never never more shall I be happy :
And they sing songs about me—'twas ill done ;
It was ill done—so the old ballad runs.

Who told them I was meant in it ?

Faust [throws himself down]. A lover, Margaret, lies at thy feet ;

He comes to undo these bonds—unloose these fetters.

Marg. [throws herself beside him]. Let us kneel down,
and call upon the saints.

See ! see ! beneath us hell boils up—the devil
Is raving there below in hideous din !

Faust [aloud]. Margaret—Margaret.

Marg. [with eager attention]. That is my love's voice.

[Springs up—her fetters fall off]

Where is he ?—Where ?—I heard my own love's voice !

Now am I free, none, none shall keep me from him.

I'll clasp his neck—will lean upon his bosom ;

I heard him call,—he's standing on the threshold,—

I heard him call the name of Margaret ;—

Amid the noises and the howls of hell,

And threats, and taunts, and laughs of devilish scorn,

I heard my own love's voice—his loving voice !

Faust. 'Tis I.

Marg. 'Tis thou !—oh, tell me so once more !

[Presses him to her bosom]

'Tis he, 'tis he—my pangs, where are they now ?

Dungeon, and chains, and scaffold, where are they ?

'Tis thou, and thou hast come to rescue me.

I am already free : look—there's the street

Where we first met—where first I saw my love—

And yonder is the cheerful garden, smiling,

Where I and Martha waited to receive thee.

Faust [striving to take her away]. Come, come with me.

Marg. Oh, stay a little while—

Some moments more—I love to stay with thee !

[Caressing him]

Faust. Haste—haste—a moment lost we dearly rue it.

Marg. So short a time away from me, my love,

Already hast forgotten how to kiss !

Why do I feel so sad upon your neck ?

Time was all heaven was pressing down upon me

In all thy words,—in every look of thine,

Yes, very heaven,—and then, then you did kiss me

As if you would smother me with your kisses !
Kiss me—now kiss me, love—or I kiss thee !

[*She embraces him*

Ah me ! your lips are cold—are dumb—are dead—
Where are my kisses, where ? with whom have you left
them ?

Where is my love ? who robbed me of your love ?

[*Turns from him*

Faust. Come, come—take courage, follow me, my love.
I love thee with unutterable love ;
But follow me,—this one—this one request.

Marg. [*turning to him*]. And is it thou, and is it thou
indeed ?

Faust. Yes, yes ! But come !

Marg. And do you break my chains !
And do you take me to your heart again !
How is it you do not shudder at my sight ?
And knowest thou whom thou art delivering ?

Faust. Come !—the deep night is fading fast away.

Marg. My mother, I have murdered her—my child,
I drowned my child—Oh was it not a gift
To thee and me ?—yes thee ! yes, thine ! and thou art
here,

I scarcely can believe it is thyself.
Give me thy hand—it is not then a dream ;
Thine own dear hand. Oh, God ! his hand is moist
Wipe, wipe it off ! methought it felt like blood !
What hast thou done ? Put up the bloody sword ;
I pray thee do.

Faust. Oh think not of the past ;
That which is done, is done. You are killing me.

Marg. No, you must live. No, you have to remain,
I will describe to you the graves which you
To-morrow must see made ; the best place give
To my poor mother—near her lay my brother—
And by their side, a little space away,
But not too far from them must be my place—
And lay the little one on my right breast ;
No other will lie with me in that bed !
To nestle down in quiet side by side
To thee—oh what a happy thing it was—
A happy thing that never more can be.
I feel as if I forced myself on thee,

And that thou wert repelling my embrace ;
And yet thou art the same—and yet thy looks
Are good and kind, as they have ever been.

Faust. Oh, if thou feelst that 'tis I, come, come.

Marg. What ? out there ?

Faust. Yes ! out into the free air.

Marg. Ay, to the grave—does not death lurk with-
out ?

Come to the bed of everlasting rest—

Yes, yes—that's all—that's all—not a step farther—

Are you going, Henry ? may I go with you ?

Faust. Come, come : the gates are open, only come.

Marg. I dare not go ; there is no help for me.

What good is it to fly ? My steps are watched.

It is a hard thing to be forced to beg,

And harder, harassed by an evil conscience.

'Tis hard to wander in a foreign land,

And then, whate'er I do, at last they'll seize me.

Faust. I will be with thee.

Marg. [*wildly*]. Fly, fly,

Save thy poor child ;

Away to the road,

By the side of the stream,

And across the path

That leads to the wood ;

Then turn to the left,

And over the plank,

It lies in the pond.

Loiter not, linger not.

Still does it stir

With the motion of life.

The little hands struggle

More faintly and faintly,

Rescue ! Oh rescue !

Faust. Recall thy wandering mind—be calm ! be calm !
One step, and you are free.

Marg. Oh, that we had but left that hill behind !

See there, my mother sitting on a stone—

Icy-cold comes a dead hand on my temples.

My mother there is sitting on a stone,

And her grey head is trembling, and her eyes

Close, and she now has ceased to nod ; her head

Looks heavy, and she sleeps too long—too long—

Oh, when she sank to sleep how blest we were !
It was a happy time !

Faust. She listens not ;
Words have no weight with her. There is no way ,
But forcibly to bear thee hence.

Marg. Touch me not ; no, I will not suffer violence :
Seize me not with that murderer's grasp ; whate'er
I did ~~was~~ done for thee, my love. I did
Every thing my love asked me, willingly.

Faust. Day dawns—oh, hasten hence, my love ! my
love !

Marg. Day ! yes, 'tis day, the last, the judgment-day ;
My bridal-day it should have been ; tell none
That thou hast been with poor weak Margaret.
Alas ! my garland is already withered ;
We'll meet again, but not at dances, love :
The crowd is gathering tumultuously,
The square and street are thronged with crushing thou-
sands ;

The bell hath sounded ; the death-wand is broken ;
They bind and blindfold me, and force me on :
On to the scaffold they have hurried me ;
Down in the chair of blood they fasten me :
And now, through every neck of all that multitude
Is felt the bitter wound that severs mine.
The world is now as silent as the grave !

Faust. Oh, that I never had been born !

Meph. [*appears at the door*]. Away, or you are lost.
This trembling, and delay, and idle chattering,
Will be your ruin ; hence, or you are lost ;
My horses shiver in the chilling breeze
Of the grey morning

Marg. What shape is that which rises from the earth ?
'Tis he, 'tis he, oh, send him from this place ;
What wants he here ? Oh, what can bring him here ?
Why does he tread on consecrated ground ?
He comes for me.

Faust. Oh, thou shalt live, my love.

Marg. Upon the judgment-throne of God, I call ;
On God I call in humble supplication.

Meph. [*to Faust*]. Come, or I leave thee here to share
her fate.

Marg. Father of heaven, have mercy on thy child.

Ye angels, holy hosts, keep watch around me.

Henry—I am afraid to look at thee.

Meph. Come—she is judged!

Voice [from above]. She is saved!

Meph. [to Faust]. Hither to me!

[Disappears with FAUST]

Voice [from within, dying away]. Henry! Henry!

THE TRAGEDY OF FAUST
SECOND PART

ACT I

I

A PLEASING LANDSCAPE

TWILIGHT

FAUST, *lying on a flowery grass-plot, weary, restless, striving to sleep. Spirits flit, hovering about—beautiful little forms.*

ARIEL

[*Song, accompanied by Æolian harps.*]

IN the spring, soft showers of blossoms
Sink down over all the earth ;
And the green fields—a wide blessing—
Smile for all of mortal birth.
And the generous little Fairies
Haste to help whom help they may.
Is he good ? or is he evil ?
What know they ? or what care they ?
He is man—he is unhappy ;
And they help whom help they may.

[*Addresses the FAIRIES.*]

Ye, round this head who sweep in airy rings,
Here, generous, gentle spirits, noble Elves,
In your true nature manifest yourselves.
Make soft the heart—assuage its savage strife ;
Chase back remorse—repel his burning stings ;
Cleanse from the thoughts foul bygone wreck of life.
Four are the pauses of the lingering night—
To speed and charm them be it your delight.
First in cool pillows let his head sink deep ;
Then bathe him in the dew of Lethe's stream.

Soon, his cramped limbs relaxing them, sweet sleep
Comes strengthening him to meet the morning's beam.

Then, brightest proof of fairy might,
And, kindest boon of fairy wight,
Give him back to holy light !

*Chorus of FAIRIES, at first singly ; then two, and more,
alternately and together*

When the twilight mists of evening
Darken the encircling green,
Breezes come with balmy fragrance—
Clouds sink down with dusky screen ;
And the heart—sweet whispers soothe it,
Rocked to infant-like repose ;
And the eyes of the o'er-wearied
Feel the gates of daylight close.

Night hath now sunk down—and rising
Star comes close on holy star ;
Sovereign splendours—tiny twinklers—
Sparkle near and shine from far :
Sparkle from the glassy waters—
Shine high up in the clear night ;
While, of peace the seal and symbol,
Reigns the full moon's queenly light.

On have flown the hours—and sorrows
Vanish ; nor can joy abide.
Feel through sleep the sense of healing !
In the purpling dawn confide !
Green vales brightening—hills out-swelling ;
Flowering copses—budding tree—
In the young corn's silver wavelets
Bends the harvest soon to be.

Wake to Hope, and Hope's fulfilment ;
In the sunrise see the day !
Thin the filmy bands that fold thee :
Fling the husk of sleep away !
Dare—determine—act. The many
Waver. Be not thou as these.

All things are the noble spirit's
Clear to see, and quick to seize.

[*A tremendous tumult announces sunrise*

Ariel. Hearken ! hark ! the storm of sunrise—
Sounding but to Spirits' ears—
As the Hours fling wide the portals
Of the East, and Day appears.
How the rock-gates, as the chariot
Of the sun bursts through, rebound
Roll of drum, and wrath of trumpet,
Crashing, clashing, flashing round ;
Unimaginable splendour—
Unimaginable sound !
Light is come ; and in the tumult,
Sight is deadened—hearing drowned.

In the bells of flowerets hide,
Or beneath the green leaves glide ;
Deeper, deeper in the rock,
Shrink ye from the deafening shock !

[*FAIRIES disappear*

Faust [alone]. Life's pulses reawakening leap anew,
The gentle twilight of the dawn to greet ;
And thou, O Earth !—for nature still is true—
Didst, this night, of the common boon partake ;
And, breathing in fresh vigour at my feet,
Already, with thy charms of new delight,
Dost in my heart the earnest wish awake
To strive towards Being's unascended height.
Half seen, half hid, in twilight gleams the world ;
The dawning woodland rings with ceaseless sound,—
Life's thousand voices : rapture infinite ;
And, to and fro the valley, mist-wreaths curled
Gush in loose streaks ;—yet downward pierces deep
Heaven's brightness. From the vaporous gulf profound
Start boughs and branches, disenthralled from sleep ;
And sparks of colour leap up from the ground
In trembling flower and leaflet dew-impearled.
A paradise is everywhere around.

Look up ! O' th' mountains, how each giant height
• Reveals the unrisen sun with solemn glow ;

They are the first to enjoy the eternal light
That later will to us its way have found.
Now, on the green-sunk Alpine meadows low
The dawn-streaks a distincter radiance shed ;
And, downward speeding still in gradual flow,
The wide illumination here is spread.
Forth comes the sun—insufferably bright.
I shrink with wounded eyes—I cower as from a blow !

Thus, too, it is, when yearning Hope hath striven
Trustfully toward the Highest, and at last
Finds open flung Fulfilment's portal wings ;
But then o'er-powering burst—we stand aghast—
Flames rushing from those deep eternal springs :
Life's torch we would have lit with light from heaven,
A fire-sea whirls about us—and what fire !
Is't Love ? is't Hate ? that glowing round us clings—
With pain and joy, and passion and desire—
So that again we would our eyes depress
To earth ; again would hide us in the veil
Of childhood—unforeseeing, passionless.

Behind me, then, let burn the sun's fierce blaze !

Where roars the cataract thro' the rent rock
I gaze—delight increasing as I gaze ;
From fall to fall, in thousand thousand streams,
He leaps—down plunges he with thunder-shock—
Whirls, rushes, raves—mad foam on foam uptost ;
But, see ! where springs—glad bud of this wild storm—
A tranquil presence thro' the storm that gleams.
The heaven-illumin'd Rainbow's glorious form ;
Distinctly now limned out, and now it seems
To flow away, in airy atoms lost,
Spreading around a cool and fragrant shower.
Man's strivings, are they not the torrent's strife ?
Think, and yet more you feel the emblem's power :
The colour, the reflected light, is Life.

II

THE IMPERIAL PALACE

HALL OF THE THRONE

COUNCIL OF STATE. *Trumpets.* COURTIERs of every rank, splendidly dressed, enter. The EMPEROR ascends the throne, on his right the ASTROLOGER

Emperor. Trusty and well-beloved, from far and near Assembled, I am glad to meet you here.
I see the Wise Man at my side ; but where's The Fool ?

Squire. He stumbled as he climbed the stairs ;
He trod too close upon the spreading train
Of the robe, and tripped. They bore him off amain ;
But whether dead or drunk, who knows or cares ?

2nd Squire. And lo ! preferment comes apace.
Another's pushing for the place ;
Tricked out in so superb a trim,
That every eye is fixed on him.
The palace guards would stop him fain,
And cross their halberds : all in vain.
See where he has got, foolhardy fool !

Enter MEPHISTOPHELES dressed as Court Fool ; he kneels at the foot of the throne

Meph. That which men execrate, yet welcome to them ;
Long for, and yet would from their presence chase it ;
Protect, and yet they say it will undo them ;
Decaim against, deride, and still embrace it ?

*He, whom you may not call to your assistance,
Yet smile when any have to him alluded ;
What from thy throne now stands at no great distance—
What from this circle hath itself excluded ?*

Emperor [to MEPHISTOPHELES]. Enough! your riddles here are out of place.

These gentlemen, in their own, have a hard case
To deal with; solve it for us if you can.

I should be too well pleased to have the man
Who could do that. My old Fool's gone, I fear,
To the—— Take his place at my side: stand here.

[MEPHISTOPHELES steps up and places himself at the
EMPEROR'S left hand

*Murmurs of the Crowd. A new fool! . . . I like old
things best.*

How came he in? . . . What interest?

Struck down at once. . . . How he did sip!

That was a tub. . . . And this a chip.

Emp. Welcome, my well-beloved, from near and far,
Convened beneath this favourable star.

Who reads the heavens sees in the horoscope
Prosperity there written—Welfare, Hope.

Why, at such time when we would drown all cares
But of decorum beards and masquing dress—

When we would feast upon our happiness—
This Council about plaguy State affairs?

Yet if it can't but be so—and you see it

Fit that it should so be—why then so be it!

[*The COUNCIL being thus formally opened by the EM-
PEROR, the CHANCELLOR, who is also Archbishop,
makes his Report on the general state of the Empire.
His Report is followed by similar statements from
the other High Functionaries*

Chancellor. Justice, man's highest virtue, loves to shed
Its saintly halo-wreath round Cæsar's head.

Inviolable Justice—the demand

Of all, the absence of which all deplore—

'Tis his to minister and to protect.

But what avails high reach of intellect,

Goodness of heart, or willingness of hand,

Where evil hatches evil evermore,

And a mad fever rages through the land?

Down from this height look on the realm: 'twould seem

That you are struggling in a powerless dream,

Where monstrous things o'er monstrous things bear sway,

And misrule is the order of the day,

And lawlessness is law—the one law men obey.

One from your homestead sweeps off steed or steer,
 Or carries away a woman, or a pix
 From the altar—chalice, cross, or candlesticks—
 And boasts of his exploits for many a year :
 Skin safe and sound—and wherefore should he fear ?
 Appellants crowd the justice-hall—
 The proud judge sits on his high pillows ;
 Meanwhile rave on with savage squall
 The uproar's swelling billows,
 And glorying in his shame stands forth the criminal.
 His crime protects him. He comes aided by
 Accomplices on whom he can rely.
 " Guilty," the sure award, when Innocence
 Is all a man can plead in his defence.

The world's disjointed all ; decency quite
 Extinct. How can the feeling, in man's breast,
 That leads him to discern and love the right,
 Live as a thought, or be in act expressed ?
 Men, whom as meaning well we may describe,
 To flattery yield, or to some coarser bribe.
 The judge, who cannot punish, will in time
 Connive at, nay, participate in crime.
 These are dark colours, would that I could draw
 A thick gauze o'er such picture ! [*Pause.*]

Measures strong
 Must be adopted ; it brooks no delay :
 When every man fears wrong, and lives by wrong,
 The prince dishonoured suffers more than they.

General-in-Chief. How they do rave and rage in these
 wild days !

Every one, every where—madness outright.
 Command—aye, say command—when none obeys.
 The burgher, safe within his walls—the knight,
 Perched on his rocky nest, stand there defying
 All we can do—on their own strength relying.
 The hireling, for his pay, makes blustering claim.
 They're with us yet ; but were the debt
 Once paid, 'tis little that we'd see of them.
 Enforce, where all resist it, a command !
 'Twere into a wasp's nest to thrust your hand.
 The kingdom, which they should protect,
 Look at it—devastated, plundered, wrecked !

We cannot pay them ; and we must permit
Violence, rapine, wrong. All suffer it.
The Empire ! What's the Empire ? Half the lands
Utterly lost to us—in rebel hands,
And foreign princes, not one of them cares
For it or us : 'tis our concern, not theirs.

Treasurer. Who on allies can reckon ? The supplies,
That were to have come in from our allies,
—Pipewater, when the conduit pipes are cut !
And, in your realm, is property secure ?
Go where one will, 'tis a new man keeps house :
One who would seem to have no object but
To hold his own, and with no thanks to us.
We must look on, and helplessly endure !
So many flowers of our prerogative
We have given away, scarce one remains to give ;
And Parties—as they call them—little weight,
Nowadays, place I on their love or hate.
Parties ? where are they ?—Ghibelline or Guelph ?
Combine ? combine ! where each thinks but of self.
They scrape, they screw, and what they get they guard—
Our chests left empty, every gold-gate barred.

Lord High Steward. And what distress must I, too, bear ?
Every day striving still to spare ;
My efforts to retrench attended
With this result—that more's expended.
The cooks, they want for nothing : wild boars, bucks,
Does, hares, and hens and turkeys, geese and ducks.
Duty-rents paid in kind, we still can dine.
But what in the wide world to do for wine ?
'Tis all out, how supply it—there's the rub.
'Tis not so long ago since, tub on tub,
It lay piled in the cellars—tun on tun
Of the best vintage-years, and the best run
Of the best hill-slopes. Now, what with the drain
Of the nobles on it, who will never stop
Their swilling, I'm not left a single drop :
And the town council, too, has tapped its store.
This too the nobles swill, and brawl for more ;
They snatch at wine-cups—seize no matter what
Comes first to hand—drain goblet, pan, and pot,
Till under the broad table, bowl and beast
Fall mixed with broken relics of the feast.

I!—I must pay for all, provide for all.
 The Jew! for me his pity is but small.
 He his anticipation-bond prepares
 Swallowing the years to come: he never spares.
 The pigs—plague take them!—never come to brawn.
 The very pillow on the bed's in pawn.
 The loaves upon the table still to pay;
 To-morrow's bread-stuff eaten yesterday!

Emp. [after some reflection, to MEPH.]. And, Fool, have
 you no grievance to propound?

Meph. I?—None. Upon this splendour to look round—
 With thee and thine and all this grand array
 Around us!—Must not confidence arise?
 —With such a prince, so ruling such a land;
 With such a host, that so the foe defies;
 With such intelligence at your command;
 With such activity of enterprise—
 Can any powers malevolent unite
 For darkness where these stars are shedding light?

*Murmurs. The rascal's quick. . . . Aye, up to trick—
 Liar, romancer. . . . When lies answer:
 Be sure there's something in the wind; . . .
 Aye, something always lurks behind. . . .
 To me 'twould seem a settled scheme.*

Meph. Search the world round, and is there to be found
 On earth one quiet corner that has not
 A something wanting, which, are we unable
 To come at it, makes life uncomfortable?
 This man wants that thing, and that man wants this.
 Here, our want is hard cash; and hard cash is,
 When men most want it, cash hard to be got.
 'Tis not a thing that from the streets you sweep;
 It lies deep down, but Science lifts the deep.
 In mountain veins—in walls—and underground—
 Much gold in coins, or uncoined, may be found;
 And, if you ask who brings this gold to light?—
 The gifted man, ruling the Infinite
 Of Nature, mighty in the Spirit's might.

Chan. *Nature and Spirit!* Words that, in my mind,
 No Christian man should utter; 'tis for this
 That we burn atheists. Speeches of the kind
 Are highly dangerous. *Nature!* aye—that is
 Sin; *Spirit!*—that means Devil;—and Devil and Sin—

A pretty pair they are !—true kith and kin—
 Having a natural fancy for each other,
 Have gendered what the world at once should smother—
 The mis-shaped miserable monster Doubt—
 Sexless, or double-sexed.

In the wide borders

Of the old Empire, two—and but two orders
 To speak of—have risen up to guard the throne :
 The Spirituality and the Knights ; and they form
 A sure protection against every storm,
 And for their pay make Church and State their own.
 Plebeian arrogance and self-willed spite
 Lead some mad spirits to contest the right ;
 Dealers with fiends they are, and heretics :
 Country and town infesting and destroying.
 And these this jester, with his fool-born tricks,
 Which you are unsuspectingly enjoying,
 Is now to this high circle smuggling in.
 To cling to reprobates itself is sin :
 The scorners and Court fool are close akin.

Meph. There spoke the veriest bigot of book-learning.
 What you discern not, sir, there's no discerning :
 All, that you touch not, stands at hopeless distance ;
 All, that you grasp not, can have no existence ;
 All, that eludes your weights, is base and light ;
 That, which you count not, is not counted right ;
 All measurement is false, but where you mete ;
 All coin without your stamp is counterfeit.

Emp. These wise saws will not make our suffering less ;
 What mean you by this lengthened Lent-address ?
 I'm weary of this endless " if " and " how " ;
 Get me the money—that's what we want now.

Meph. Aye, all you want, and more ; 'tis easy, yet
 The easy's difficult enough to get.
 There's plenty of it—plenty—not a doubt of it—
 In th' heart of th' earth, but how to get it out of it ?
 Think of the old days, when invading bands
 Came like a deluge, swamping men and lands ;
 How natural it was that many should
 Hide their best valuables where they could.
 'Twas so in times of the old Roman sway :
 So yesterday—and so it is to-day ;—
 And all lies dead and buried in the soil.

The soil is Cæsar's—his the splendid spoil.

Trea. Not bad for a fool. It stands to reason quite :
The soil is doubtless the old emperor's right.

Chan. His golden meshes Satan spreads, I fear :
And something more than good is busy here.

Mar. If what we want at Court he'd only give,
I'd hazard th' other place in this to live.

General-in-Chief. The fool's the man for us all. The soldier's dumb :

He takes his dollars—asks not whence they come.

Meph. And if, perhaps, you fancy me a rogue,
Why not take counsel of the Astrologue ?
There stands he—Truth itself ;—reads what Heaven
writes

Distinctly in the planetary lights—
Cycle encircling cycle, Hour and House—
And what he sees in Heaven will say to us.

Murmurs of the Crowd

*Rascals a pair !—they understand—
And play into each other's hand—
Phantast and Fool. Easily known
Why they two so beset the throne.
Aye the old song—so often sung—
The fool suggests—the wise gives tongue.*

Astrologer [*Meph. prompts*]. The Sun himself is gold
without alloy ;

Swift Mercury, still at his sly employ,
For friends that pay speeds messages of joy.
Venus, with every man of you in love,
Early and late, keeps twinkling from above.
Coy Luna's whimsical ; and Mars, belike,
With red glare threatens, but delays to strike ;
And Jupiter is still the brightest star.
Dim glooms the mass of Saturn from afar :
Small to the eye, and small our estimate
Of him in value, vast as is his weight.
The world is cheered, when, in conjunction shines,
Luna with Sol—with silver, gold combines.
Anything else one wishes for or seeks—
Park, palace, pretty bosom, rosy cheeks—
Fellows of course. This highly-learned man
Makes or procures it—what none else here can.

Emp. A second voice upon my ear,
That doubles every sentence, rings—
The matter yet is far from clear,
And nothing like conviction brings.

Murmurs. *What's that to us ? . . . What wretched fuss—
Chemist and quack . . . Old almanack.
I've heard it oft . . . I was too soft ;
And should it come—'Tis all a hum.*

Meph. Here stand they, all amazement ! staring round
At the high discovery ; gave no credit to it.
One has his story of a strange black hound ;
One has a blind legend of a mandrake root.
Aye, let them laugh, or try to laugh it off ;
Say 'tis a juggle—tricks of knaves or witches ;
Yet—all the sooner for their sneer and scoff—
Odd sudden tinglings come ; limbs shake ; foot itches.

One of Nature's never-ending
Secret wonders here you find ;
From the lowest rings ascending,
Living traces upwards wind.
When and where, all over twitching,
Every limb feels sudden seizure,
Then and there keep digging, ditching ;
There's the fiddler—there's the treasure !

Murmurs. *My foot—I cannot move about ;
My arm is cramped . . . 'Tis only gout ;
And my big toe, it pains me so,
From all these signs, my mind divines
That here the treasure is.*

Emp. Come, no delay ;
Escape for you is none. This very day
Shall bring these froth-lies of yours to the test.
Show us these chambers where these treasures rest.
I'll throw down sword and sceptre of command,
And labour with my own imperial hand ;
Work heart and hand at the great enterprise :
But if all you are uttering be but lies—
As I do fear—I'll send you straight to hell.

Meph. [*aside*]. Broad is the way from this, as I know
well.

[*Alone.*] I have not words enough truly to tell
 Of all the treasure everywhere that lies :
 None claiming it—none knowing of such prize.
 The peasant with his plough who scrapes the sod,
 Sees a gold crock beneath the upturned clod,
 Crusted and clammy—blesses his good luck
 In having on a lump of nitre struck ;
 And with delight and terror manifold,
 Feels in his meagre hand, that scarce can hold
 The treasure, *rouleaus* of gold—actual gold.
 Down to what clefts—through what drear passages
 Must he who knows of hidden treasure press
 On the verge of the under-world ! What vaults to be
 Blown up !—what cellars, well secured : the sun
 For ages has not seen them open thrown !
 There golden salvers, goblets, beakers fair—
 All for the sage—and ruby cups are there.
 And, should he wish to use them—plenty of
 Good old wine, too—I warrant you true stuff.
 And you may credit me—I know it well—
 The wood casks all are dust ; and, strange to tell,
 The wine makes new ones of its own old crust.
 And such wine—'tis not only gems and gold,
 But the essential spirit of noblest wine
 That night and horrors here imprisoned hold.
Here doth the Sage his search untired pursue.
 Day has no light whereby deep truth to see,
 In darkness is the home of Mystery.

Emp. Darkness and Mystery I leave to thee.
 What's good for anything will dare the day.
 At night your rascal can skulk out of view—
 When every cow is black and all cats grey.
 Handle the plough, then ; and let us behold
 Your share turn up these pans and pots of gold.

Meph. Take spade and hoe yourself. Throw off all
 state :

The labour of the peasant 'tis makes great.
 A herd of golden calves shall from the soil
 Start up—of earnest will and ardent toil
 Instant reward ! Enraptured then you may
 Adorn yourself—adorn your lady gay.
 Jewels in the imperial diadem
 Add splendour to the monarch ; the rich gem

Makes beauty lovelier in the coloured play
Of light.

Emp. [*impatiently*]. Quick! quick! how long, how long, will you delay?

Ast. [*Meph. prompting*]. Sire! moderate this fervour of desire.

Best now the merry masquerade to act,
And add it. Double purposes distract.
Then through the above, in self-communion learn,
The under to deserve, and so to earn,
Who seeks for goodness, should himself be good;
For cheerfulness, should calm his fevered blood.
Tread hard the ripe grapes, if thy wish be wine;
If miracles, increasing faith be thine!

Emp. Well then! Ash Wednesday will, I trust, uphold
The promises you're giving me of gold.

I never did so long for Lent.

The Astrologer's advice is, after all,

The best; and so in merriment

Let the interval be spent.

We'll have our ball, whate'er befall,

And a gay time of carnival. [*Trumpets. Exeunt*

Meph. [*to the audience*]. You never can get fools to understand

How luck and merit still go hand in hand:

Your born fool never yet was Fortune's prizeman.

The stone of the philosopher,

In such hands, no great treasure were—

The wise man's talisman minus the wise man.

III

MASQUERADE

*A spacious Hall, with Side-chambers adorned and prepared
for a Masquerade*

Characters Introduced.—GARDEN-GIRLS, GARDENER, MOTHER
AND DAUGHTER, WOOD-CUTTERS, &c. PULCHINEL-
LOES, PARASITES, DRUNKARD, SATIRICAL POET, THE
GRACES, THE FATES, THE FURIES, HOPE, FEAR,
PRUDENCE, ZOÏLO-THERSITES, BOY CHARIOTEER,
PLUTUS, STARVELING, WOMEN, FAUNS, SATYRS,
GNOMES, GIANTS, NYMPHS, PAN

Enter HERALD

Herald. Fancy not that our scene is laid,
Or that to-night our play is played,
In the drear bounds of German grounds—
Of dead men's dances, devilry—
Court fools and Gothic revelry :
Ours is a cheerful masquerade.

Feel yourselves now in an Italian home ;
And that the Emperor, on his way to Rome,
For his advantage, and for your delight,
Hath crossed the high Alps, and is lord to-day
Of a new kingdom, beautiful and gay ;
Having already in himself full might,
Has sued the holy slipper for full right ;
Come for himself a brilliant crown to gain—
The cap and bells have followed in his train,
And we are all born as it were again ;
Put on the cap of folly, and are in it
Such paragons of wisdom for the minute.
A clever fellow's comfortable plan
Is, " draw it cosily o'er head and ears,

And play the fool as little as you can."
 A prudent course ; the world in a few years
 Is pretty sure of teaching any man.
 They come in troops, they form in groups,
 And into knots the masses sever,
 And in and out they move about,
 And out and in again they range.
 For ever changing, yet no change,
 Its hundred thousand fooleries,
 The world's the world ! 'Twas—'twill be—'tis
 The World—the same one Fool for ever.

*Enter GARDEN-GIRLS, some adorned with artificial flowers ;
 some with bouquets in their hands*

Garden-girls [Song, accompanied by mandolins].

We, to-night, to win your favour,
 Trick us out in masquerade ;
 Young girls, that our way from Florence
 With the German Court have made.

O'er our dusky tresses glisten
 Roses from no common bowers ;
 Threads of silk, and silken laces,
 Shape we into mimic flowers.

Ours is sure a happy service :
 Waking at our touch appear
 Buds that have no fear of winter—
 Flowers that blossom through the year.

Divers-coloured shreds arranging,
 Hue and hue symmetrical ;
 Worthless each, yet, thus united,
 Feel you not the charm of all.

Garden-girls, with neatness dress we,
 Ornamentally in part ;
 Woman's love of graceful Nature
 Blends so gracefully with Art.

Herald [to the GARDEN-GIRLS]. Let us see the laden
 baskets,

Balanced on your heads that rest ;
 Show the fair flowers—bud and blossom—
 Each select what suits her best.
 Let a garden, as by magic,
 Walks and arbours, meet the eyes :
 Crowds will throng round the fair merchants,
 And the lovely merchandise.

Garden-girls. 'Tis a pleasant mart. No higgling,
 No dispute for prices here ;
 In a few short words expressive,
 What each offers will appear.

Olive-branch [with fruit]. I no flower its blossoms envy ;
 I with none will have dispute ;
 Peaceful, and of peace the emblem,
 Marrow of the land my fruit.
 Oh ! that this day, it were mine
 The brightest, fairest brow to twine.

Wheat-wreath [golden]. Gifts of Ceres form my chaplet,
 Brown with the maturing sun.
 Crown of Life ! be still the Useful
 And the Ornamental one.

Fancy Chaplet. Flowers of mosses, many-coloured,
 Mimics of the mallow grey—
 Nothing half so bright in Nature—
 Are the fashion of the day.

Fancy Bouquet. These—their family and tribe—
 No Theophrastus could describe :
 Some have little love for these,
 But there are whom they will please.
 Flowers to beauty dedicated,
 Chaplets through the tresses plaited ;
 Or delightedly that rest
 Near the fond heart, on the soft breast.

Challenge. Let your motley fancies blossom
 In the fashion of the hour ;
 In strange guise be shaped and moulded.
 Be they such as Nature never,
 In her wildest freaks, unfolded—
 Green stalks—bells of golden glimmer
 From the flowing tresses shimmer ;
 But we——

Rose-buds. Love to lurk unseen.
 Happy finder ! he for whom

We a sweet surprise have been,
 Breathing fresh in dewy bloom.
 When the summer comes again—
 And the rose-bud kindles then
 Into blushes—who of men
 But must yield him to the charm ?
 Can of love his heart disarm ?
 Lover, flower ! and love's own emblem !
 Timid promise—rich revealing !
 Rose ! Of all in Flora's kingdom
 Dear to eye, and heart, and feeling !

[*The GARDEN-GIRLS arrange their goods under the
 green leafy walks. GARDENER enters with GAR-
 DEN-BOYS, who arrange themselves as a CHORUS*

GARDENER

[*Song, accompanied by theorbos.*]

Flowers ! my lady's brow entwining ;
 Pretty things in show and shining !
 Fruits—in them no false decoying—
 Are the true stuff for enjoying.

Buy them ! try them ! Plums, pears, cherries.
 Show their brown and honest faces ;
 Tongue and palate, better judges
 Than the eye, to try such cases.

Come ! my ripe fruit's a true treasure ;
 Here to feast is actual pleasure :
 Rose-buds speak to the ideal ;
 Bite the fruit—the taste is real.

[*To the GARDEN-GIRLS.*]

Yours the pride of glowing flowers,
 And the wealth of autumn ours ;
 For our mutual delight—
 What say you, if we unite ?

Into this enchanted garden
 Come ye, each his fancy suit ;
 Bowers are here, and walks and windings ;
 Bud and leaves, and flowers and fruit.

[*Amid alternate song, accompanied with guitars and theorbos, both Choruses proceed to arrange their goods so as to set them off to advantage*

Enter MOTHER AND DAUGHTER

Mother. When first I saw the infant smiles,
Dearest of living creatures,
On thy small face, with hood and lace
I decked those baby features,
And fancied all thy future pride,
The richest winning as his bride
The fairest of all creatures.

Many a day has passed away,
My own dear child--Heaven love it—
And wooers came and wooers went ;
And little good came of it.
'Twas all the same with every wile,
The merry dance, the sly soft smile,
Time lost, with little profit.

Was never ball or festival
But you were in the dances ;
Round games, or forfeits—all in vain ;
Away the luck still glances.
Spread wide your nets again to-day—
The fools are out : who knows what may
Turn up in this day's chances ?

[*Girls, playfellows young and beautiful, enter and join in loud confidential chatting. Fishermen and Birdcatchers now enter with nets, lines, and limed twigs and other tackle, and join the group of girls. Alternate attempts to win, catch, escape, and hold fast, give opportunity for most agreeable dialogues*

Enter WOOD-CUTTERS, CHARCOAL-BURNERS, &c.,
violently and roughly

Wood-cutters. Room ! make room ! we want and crave
it ;
Want but room—and we must have it.

Trees we fell—down come they crashing ;
 Bear them with us—crushing, smashing.
 What we wish, is to impress on
 All and each the true old lesson—
 If the coarse and clumsy hand
 Kept not working in the land ;
 If there were not such as we are,
 Could the world have such as ye are ?

Ye are the chosen ;
 Yet do not forget it,
 That ye would be frozen,
 If we had not sweated.

Enter PULCHINELLOES and PARASITES

Pulchinelloes [stupidly, almost like fools].

Ye are the born fools,
 Toiling and trudging ;
 Nature hath made you
 With bent back, for drudging.
 We are the clever :
 Nothing whatever,
 That you call lumber,
 Our backs to encumber.
 All our pleasure,
 Easy leisure ;
 All our traps,
 Flaps and caps ;
 Hose and jackets, and such tight wear—
 No great burthen is such light ware ;
 Slim foot, then, in thin pantoufle,
 Through the Court we shift and shuffle.
 We are met in market-places,
 Painted masks upon our faces,
 At street corners we stand gaping—
 There, like cocks, keep flapping, clapping
 Wings as 'twere ; and, thus set going,
 Take to clattering and crowing—
 Together three or four of us
 Will step aside—like eels we glide—
 And nobody sees more of us,
 Till, by-and-by, up starts a brother,
 And we crow out to one another.

Praise us, blame us—try to shame us—

What care we? Ye cannot tame us.

Parasites [flattering and fawning on the WOOD-CUTTERS,

CHARCOAL-BURNERS, &c.].

Porters! there are no men truer—

Charcoal-burner! and wood-hewer!

After all, there are but few men

Do the world's work like these true men.

Where were bowing, suing, smiling;

Blowing hot and cold; beguiling

Words and watching looks; and nodding

Sly assent, but for their plodding?

Fire from heaven comes unexpected—

Providentially directed—

To the kitchen hearth; but is it

Better for the sudden visit?

If no faggots had been placed there,

Would not fire have gone to waste there?

And the faggots' blaze would dwindle,

If there were no coals to kindle;

But, with them, comes bubbling, boiling,

Roasting, toasting, baking, broiling.

And the man of true taste,

With instincts æsthetic,

Scents roast meat, smells paste,

And of fish is prophetic.

He smiles in the pantry—

He shines at the table.

Performer—none warmer,

More active, more able!

Enter A DRUNKEN MAN [scarce conscious].

Drunken Man. Everything is right and merry

When in wine our cares we bury.

Cheery hearts, 'tis we that bring them!

Cheery songs, 'tis we that sing them!

Drink, boys, drink; and still be drinking—

Clashing glasses, drinking, clinking.

See, behind, that fellow blinking!

Why decline, boys? Drink your wine, boys!

Come and clash your glass with mine, boys!

[These lines repeated by CHORUS.]

If my wife, with rout and racket,
 Scoff at my embroidered jacket—
 Call me mummer, masquerader,
 I'll show fight to the invader.
 Spite of her—amid the clinking,
 Clashing glasses—I'll keep drinking,
 Of good wine bad wives are jealous :
 Keep the women off, young fellows !
 Maskers, mummers—take your wine, boys !
 Clash your glass, as I clash mine, boys !
Clash your glass ; keep up the fun, boys !
Till the work of life is done, boys ! [Chorus.]

Of our host I'm still the debtor :
 Plan of life I know no better.
 Looks he sulkily, my boast is
 Of my credit with the hostess.
 Does the landlady run rusty,
 Still the maid is true and trusty :
 She's my sure and safe sheet-anchor ;
 And, when all else fail, my banker.
 So I drink, and still keep drinking ;
 With the glasses clashing, clinking.
Clash your glasses, each, my fine boys !
Clear them off, as I clear mine, boys ! [Chorus.]

I'll stay where I am at present ;
 No place else can be more pleasant.
 Let me lie where I am lying ;
 I cannot stand, no use in trying.
 A new toast ! Let all keep drinking !
 Brothers all, their glasses clinking.
 Drink away, like men of mettle ;
 Hold to chairs, and cling to settle.
 Sit up each who still is able,
 Or lie snug beneath the table.
Come, my fine boys—drink your wine, boys !
Every drop, as I drink mine, boys ! [Chorus.]
 [HERALD announces different poets, Courtly and
 Knightly minstrels, sentimental and enthusiastic. In
 the pressure of rival poets, none will let another be
 heard. One sneaks by, and contrives to say a few
 words

Satirist. In my character of Poet
How my spirits it would cheer,
Dared I say or sing a something
Nobody would wish to hear.

[The Night and Churchyard poets send apologies, as they are engaged in an interesting conversation with a newly arisen vampire, from which they anticipate the development of a new school of poetry. The HERALD is compelled to admit their excuse, and calls up the GREEK MYTHOLOGY, which, though in modern masks, loses neither character nor charms]

Enter THE GRACES

Aglaia. The charm of manners we bid live
In life. With graceful kindness give.

Hegemone. And gracefully be still received
The granted wish—the want relieved.

Euphrosyne. And graceful be the tone subdued,
And home-felt charm of gratitude.

Enter THE PARCÆ

Atropos. I, the eldest, am invited
At this festival to spin—
Much for you and me to think of
In this tender life-thread thin.

That the threads be soft and pliant,
Must the flax be sifted fine ;
And, that they flow smooth and even,
Fingers skilled must press the twine.

If, at revels or at dances,
Blood beats high ; oh ! then let wake
Caution. Think how short the measure :
Think that the frail thread may break.

Clotho. Be it known, to me the scissors,
In these last days, they confide :
By the late Administration,
None were pleased or edified.

Husky yarns the dull old woman
Left to drawl a weary time ;

Clearest threads, of brilliant promise,
She cut off in youthful prime.

Of impatient inexperience,
That might make me go astray,
Danger now is none. My scissors,
In the sheath remain to-day.

Glad am I that, thus made powerless,
I can smile on all I see ;
That, all apprehension banished,
You may dance and revel free.

Lachesis. Happy maintenance of order
To the sagest was decreed :
Mine the wheel that ceases never,
Circling still with equal speed.

Threads flow hither, threads flow thither,
And their course my fingers guide :
None must overpass the circle—
Each must in its place abide.

I—should I a moment slumber—
Tremble for the fate of men :
Hours are numbered, years are measured,
And the weaver's time comes then.

Enter THE FURIES

Herald. Had you an eye as keen as an inquisitor's,
Or were you ever so deep read in books,
You'd never guess who these are by their looks,
But fancy them every-day morning visitors.

These are the Furies. None would think the thing
Credible. Pretty, shapely, friendly, young,
You scarce can think with what a serpent tongue
These doves, all harmless as they look, can sting.

They're wicked ; and, no doubt of it, are witty.
Could mask their nature ; but, on such gay day—
When fools do fool—they have no secret ; they
Boast themselves plagues of country and of city.

Alecto. No help for it ; you cannot but believe us,
For we are pretty, young, fond, flattering kittens.
Is any here in love ? We'll find admittance
To that man's heart and home : he must receive us.

We'll court and coax him ; say to him all that would be
Damning ; say how she winked at this or that—
Is dull—is crook-backed—limps—is lean—is fat ;
Or, if betrothed, no better than she should be.

And we it is can deal with the fiancée ;
Tell her what he said of her weeks ago,
In confidence, to Madame So-and-so.
They're reconciled : the scars remain, I fancy.

Megara. This is mere child's play. Let them once have
married,
I take it up ; turn, with pretences flimsy,
Honey to gall, helped out by spleen or whimsey,
Or jest, at some rash moment too far carried.

Man, when what once was dearest he possesses,
Will feign or fancy soon a something dearer ;
Fly charms that pall, seen oftener and seen nearer ;
Fly warm love, seek some chill heart's dead caresses.

I at manœuvring am shrewd and supple.
I, and friend Asmodæus, who apace
Sows tares, destroying thus the human race
One by one—rather couple, say, by couple.

Tisiphone. I than words have darker engines—
Poison—daggers—for the traitor,
Mixed and sharpened ! Sooner, later,
Life—thy life—shall glut my vengeance ?

Sweetest hopes that love can offer
Changed to keen embittered feeling ;
With such wretch there is no dealing :
He hath sinned, and he must suffer.

Let none tell me of forgiving,
To the rocks I cry. " Revenge " is
Their reply. Hark ! he who changes
Dies—as sure as I am living.

Enter THE GROUP described in the following speech

Herald. Now, may it please you, stand back one and all :
Make way for another group ! Those whom I see
Differ in character and in degree—

Aye, and in kind—from all the maskers here.
See, pressing hitherward, what would appear
A mountain : variegated carpets fall
Adown its flanks, and it moves on in pride—
A head, with large long teeth, and serpentine
Proboscis wreathed. Their secret they would hide ;
But it will open to this key of mine.

A graceful lady, sitting on the neck,
Wields a thin wand that mighty bulk to guide,
And bend all his brute motions to her will.
Archly smiles she, as though at her own skill
Amused and happy, holding him in check.
The other stands high up : a glory there
Encircles that grand form—a light divine,
Too dazzling for this eye of mine to dare.
Two noble women—one at either side—
Are chained ; and one is trembling, as in fear,
And one moves gracefully with joyous cheer ;
And one would break the chain she loathes to wear.
One looks, in bondage, as though she were free :
Let them, in turn, each tell us who they be.

Fear. Mad feast, this ! Drear lamps—dusk tapers—
Waving with uncertain glimmer.

Oh ! this chain ! Through smoky vapours,
Faces strange around me shimmer.

Fools, avaunt ! Peace, idle laughter,
Grinning—I distrust your grin :
All my enemies are after
Me to-night, and hem me in.

I know that mask. As I suspected,
'Tis an old friend—now my worst foeman :
He'd stab me ; sees himself detected,
And steals away, and speaks to no man.

To the far-off world, oh ! could I
Flee away, how glad I were ;
But to this I cling with trembling—
Horror here, and Darkness there.

Hope. If the masking of the night,
Sisters dear, be a delight ;
Yet, be sure to-morrow's coming
Will bring with it joy more bright
Than your gayest masking, mumming.
Oh ! for the uncertain haze
Of the torches' glimmering blaze,
That the cheerful daybreak glow
Over all its light would throw !
Then, at our own will, would we,
Now in groups, and now alone,
Or with one—some dearest one—
Roam through lawn and meadow free ;
Rest at leisure, roam at pleasure,
And in life that knows no care,
All things to our will replying,
No repulse, and no denying,
Wander, welcomed everywhere :
Doubting not there still must be
To be found some region blest—
Happy home of all that's best.

Prudence. Two of men's chief enemies—
See you how I curb and chain them—
Fear and Hope. Make way for these :
All is safe while I restrain them.

With the tower above him swaying,
See ! the live Colossus paces,
Step by step, my will obeying,
Unfatigued, the steepest places.

From the battlement, far gleaming,
Quivers fast each snowy pinion,
As looks round the goddess, deeming
All she sees her own dominion.

Who can see without admiring ?
Light divine around her is—
Victory her name—Inspiring
Queen of all activities !

Enter ZOÏLO-THERSITES

Zoïlo. Ho ! ho ! this is the very place for me,
To set all right, for you're all wrong I see.

What I may think of small game is small matter.
 See! the fair lady, up there; I'll be at her.
 Oh! yes; be sure it is no other than
 The Lady Victory. Well, if I'm a man,
 She, with the two white wings, cocked up there, thinks
 Herself an eagle—and that east and west,
 And north and south, and every point between them,
 Are hers—of her wide empire are but links:
 All things are hers, if she has only seen them;
 Aye, aye, the lust of empire has its charms.
 They praise her; aye, they praise her. I protest
 That to praise anything sets me in arms.
 What's low I would lift up; what's high make low;
 What's crooked I'd make straight; not only so,
 But make straight crooked. I was, from my birth,
 One who saw always all things wrong on earth.
 The round earth! Why should it be round? Aye,
 there

Matters require reform—I'd have it square.

Herald. Aye, ragged rascal! thou shalt not escape
 The good staff's welcome on thy crooked nape.
 Aye, turn and writhe, and wind and wheel away,
 And crawling, lick the dust. Begone! I say.
 Strange how the fellow, with his broken hump,
 Whirls on the floor—the round, rough, loathsome lump.
 The porcupine—no head, or arms, or leg.
 How the thing puffs!—'tis very like an egg.
 Look there! it swells, it lengthens, bursts asunder;
 And a twin birth behold!—a double wonder!—
 Adder and bat: through dust the one you track,
 And one up to the roof is flitting black.
 They're making their way out to meet again,
 And reunite—oh! save me from the twain.

[ZOÏLO-THERSITES disappears as described
Murmurs of the Crowd. “Up! up! another dance comes
 on.”

“Not I, indeed: would we were gone!
 Felt you how the spectres breathe
 From above and from beneath?
 A thrilling whizzed along the root
 Of my hair.”—“It crawled along my foot.
 But no one's hurt.”—“Well, well—all's right;
 But we have had such a fright.”

*All the fun, any way, is ended :
This was what the brute intended."*

[*The HERALD sees a group approaching, which he describes before they are seen by the general company*
Herald. Since first I took upon myself the task
To play the herald's part, at mime or mask,
I always watched the doors, that nothing might
Find entrance in, that could in any way
Disturb, even for a moment, the delight
That in a theatre, on holiday,
You have in truth a title to expect.
I waver not, I yield not, have no fear ;
I keep the door well watched and guarded here.
But through the window spectres may glide in,
From tricks of magic. Even could I detect
Such tricks, I have no power to keep you free.
I cannot but acknowledge that about
The dwarf was something to create grave doubt ;
But now in pour the spectres, in full stream,
Resistless. Who each figure is, and what
The characters assumed are, it would seem
The Herald's fitting duty to explain.
But here to try would be an effort vain :
I cannot tell you, for I know it not.
Here there is mystery beyond my reach.
Here you must help me ; here you, too, must teach.
See you a roll and rustling through the crowd ?
A gallant team of four—a splendid car—
Sweeps swiftly hitherward. It glitters far.
It doth not part the crowd, nor doth there seem
Tumult or pressure round that glorious team.
In coloured light on moves it far and fast,
And wandering stars of fire are from it cast,
As from a magic lantern. How it speeds
Hither ! and with the roar of a strong blast.
Make way for it !—I shudder, and——

[*The car described by the HERALD now appears on the stage*

Boy Charioteer. Halt, steeds !
Stay your wings ! stay ! and feel the accustomed rein ;
Restrain yourselves : be still when I restrain ;
Rush on when I inspire ; respect the ground
On which we are ! Look everywhere around !

Circle on circle—how spectators throng.
Up, Herald! up! and ere we speed along,
And are far out of sight, be it your aim
To paint and to present us each by name,
As suits your office. Allegories be
The matters that you trade in—such are we.

Herald. I do not know your name, but I
Would venture on description.

Boy Char. Try!

Herald. First, looking at you, I admit
You have youth—and beauty goes with it.
'Twixt man and boy; the fair beholder
Thinks you'll look better, too, when older.
You seem to me one, upon whom to gaze
May give them danger in the future days—
A dear deceiver from your very birth.

Boy Char. Prettily said. Go on; make it appear.
How far the riddle of this acted mirth
Your skill can solve—your comment let us hear.

Herald. The eyes' swart fire—the jewelled band that
presses
With starry glow the midnight of thy tresses—
The graceful, showy, ornamental gown,
That from the shoulders to the sock falls down
In glittering tissue, and the glowing fringe
That streams along the sides with purple tinge—
Your person from a girl's one scarce would know;
But the girls think of it, for weal or woe:
They have already given you, it may be,
Some little lessons in the A B C.

Boy Char. The splendid figure on the chariot throne!
Give us your notion of who it may be.

Herald. The King in every look of his is shown;
And opulent, I guess, and mild is he:
Who win his favour they from care are free—
May rest them at their ease. His active eyes
Spy out their wants, his lavish hand supplies:
The liberal hand is more than house or land.

Boy Char. Your vague description will not help us much.
You may improve your sketch with little trouble:
Add in another and another touch.

Herald. Noble he is! No words can paint the Noble!
A hale moon face, full mouth, and cheeks that glow

Under the diamonded turban's snow ;
A sumptuous robe, that falls with easy flow ;
And in his gestures, and his graceful mien,
The calm of long-accustomed sway is seen.

Boy Char. 'Tis Plutus ! god of wealth. In happy hour
Come on a visit to the Emperor,
In all his pomp and prodigality.
I fancy he'll be very welcome now.

Herald. But of yourself tell us the What and How.

Boy Char. I am Profusion—I am Poesy.
I am the Poet who feels his true power,
And is himself, indeed, but in the hour
When he on the regardless world hath thrown,
With lavish hand, the wealth, peculiarly his own.
And I am rich—am rich immeasurably :
Plutus alone in riches equals me.
Through me his banquets charm, his dances live :
That which they could not else have had, I give.

Herald. The bragging tone sits gracefully on you ;
But show us something of what you can do.

Boy Char. I do but snap my fingers, and around
The car are sparks and lightning-flashes found.

[*Snap's his fingers*]

Here goes a string of pearls, and here
Are golden clasps for neck and ear ;
Comblet and crown the next snap brings,
And gems of price in costliest rings ;
And flamelets here and there I throw,
In the fond hope that some may glow

Herald. How they crowd, and grasp, and snatch at
Everything that they can catch at !
They'll crush his life out. Toy and trinket
He flings to them. Only think it—
All snatch at them, gem and jewel,
As in dreams ; but oh, how cruel !
As I live 'tis but a juggle.

After a poor devil's struggle
For a gem—and he has got it—
For a ring—and he has caught it—
When he thinks he has a treasure,
It takes wings at its own pleasure.
Pearl-strings snap, the beads are falling—
Beetles in the hand are crawling.

Flung impatiently away,
 Humming round his head they play.
 Another clutches for his prize
 A very swarm of butterflies,
 That flutter off capriciously ;
 I'd almost say maliciously.

~~Scarp~~ ! to have promised them so much,
 And put them off with rubbish such.

Boy Char. The Herald's business is of masks to tell,
 But not to penetrate below the shell
 Into the essence. This is not your right
 Or proper province : it asks sharper sight.
 From all discussions I would keep me free.
 Master, to thee I turn, and ask of thee [*turning to PLUTUS*]
 Hast thou not given me full dominion o'er
 The glorious team, the tempest-footed four ?
 Do I not, at thy will, their motions sway ?
 Am I not where thy impulse points the way ?
 Was it not mine to rush on daring wing
 Triumphant along the Chariot-ring,
 And home to thee the palm of victory bring ?
 And, in War's splendid game, the conqueror's need
 When did I seek for thee, and not succeed ?
 The laurel-wreath, that shines thy brows above,
 Was it not I with mind and hand that wove ?

Plu. Gladly—oh ! would that all the world could hear it—
 Do I proclaim thee spirit of my spirit ;
 To aid my wishes still thy wishes fly ;
 Richer thou art—oh ! far more rich than I !
 The green bough and thy wreath, I value them
 More—'twill delight thee—than my diadem.
 Thou art—let all men know it—my best treasure :
 Thou art my son, in whom my soul hath pleasure.

Boy Char. [*to the crowd*]. The choicest gifts I have to
 give—
 See ! I've scattered them around—
 Are the flamelets fugitive,
 That for a little moment shed
 Their fire on this or that one's head ;
 From one to one away they bound ;
 O'er this brow halo-like they sit,
 From that in restless brilliance flit :
 A light loose blaze of flickering gauze

That dies before we know it was.
 Alas ! how seldom will the light,
 Shed anywhere, rise high or bright ;
 With many a one burned out before
 They know—it fades—falls—is no more.

Chatter of Women. Look at the crouching rascal on
 The carriage roof—a charlatan—
 Hans Merryman—poor Jack ; but very
 Far now looks Merryman from merry.
 Hunger and thirst have bared his jaw-bones ;
 None ever saw such sorry raw bones.
 Pinch him ! there's nothing here to pinch ;
 Skin and bone—if he's flesh he'll flinch.

Starveling. Off ! touch me not, vile women ! Ye
 Have never a good word for me.
 Until my lady was too grand
 To house-affairs to give a hand ;
 Too grand to answer every call,
 Work hard, and have an eye to all :
 Things went on well. No room for doubt—
 All running in and nothing out.
 I kept the key of chest and strong box :
 But I am always in the wrong box.
 You scoffed such poor economist,
 And called me Lady Stingy-fist.
 Oh ! yes, I always am to blame,
 Old screw and skin-flint then my name.
 But now the woman has grown daring—
 No thought of stinting or of sparing ;
 No, nor of paying. Think of paying,
 With wants increasing—means decaying !
 Her good man scarce can walk the streets—
 In debt to every one he meets.
 And all that she can filch, she flings
 Away on dress or junketings.
 She drinks more wine—aye, too, and better—
 With the young rascals that beset her.
 New wants are every day arising—
 Old times are gone. Is it surprising,
 That thirst for gold, no more your peevish vice
 Of pinch-gut parsimonious Avarice,
 Puffs itself out—puts on Man's mask ? In me,
 Lo ! the new Science of Economy !

Ringleader of the Women. With dragons let the old drake
 grabble ;
 Skin-flint with Flint-skin grin and gabble :
 Why with them keep up a struggle ?
 Is not all a lie—a juggle ?
 The men—were they not bad enough ?—
 Are stung to madness by this stuff.

Mob of Women. At him ! At his dragons made of
 Pasteboard ! What are you afraid of ?
 Nothing here but lie, cheat, trick :
 Wizard ! juggler ! heretic !
 Destined shortly to exhibit
 At the stake, or on the gibbet.

Herald. Peace ! or my staff the coast will clear :
 Yet is my help scarce wanting here.
 See you how, in their wrath, the monsters raise
 Their scales, and each his double wings displays ?
 Their jaws breathe fire, and the crowd flies apace :
 I thank the dragons, they have cleared the place.

[*PLUTUS steps from the car*

Herald. See ! he descends ; and with what kingly grace
 He moves—approaching hither. At his beck
 The dragons rouse, and from the chariot bear
 The chest with all its gold, and the poor wreck
 Of man that seems to guard the treasures there.

How accomplished, who can tell ?
 'Tis little less than miracle.

Plu. [*to BOY CHAR.*]. It was a heavy burden. Thou art
 free :

Away to thine own sphere. Away with thee !
 Thy place—thy true place—is not here, among
 A wild, ree-raw, self-willed, tumultuous throng,
 Together here in mad confusion hurled.
 There, where the clear eye sees in calm the clear ;
 There, where the good, the beautiful is dear ;
 Where the pure impulse of the heart alone
 Doth guide thee, and thou art indeed thine own.
 In solitude : oh ! there create thy world.

Boy Char. Dear to myself as envoy true of thine,
 I love thee ; for thy nature, too, is mine.
 Fulness is ever where thou dost remain,
 And where I am men feel it glorious gain ;

And many a one will all his life debate—
 "To thee, to me, shall he be dedicate?"
 Thine may at will lie down and rest. For those
 Who follow me there never is repose.
 Nor sleep my acts in secret and in shade:
 Do I but breathe, my presence is betrayed.
 Farewell! I seek the joy you give full fain;
 But whisper low, and I am here again. [*Exit as he came*]
Plu. Now for the imprisoned treasures of the box!
 Just with the Herald's rod I touch the locks.
 'Tis open! Look you here: in brazen kettles
 It boils out—golden streams—and now it settles,
 And stiffens into chains, crowns, trinkets, rings.
 And now it bubbles and boils up again:
 Seizing on, melting, swallowing all the things
 It had created.

Alternate Cries of Crowd. Look! look there! how fast
 'tis going:
 Bubbling, boiling, overflowing.
 Gushing streams of many colours;
 Golden cups, and minted dollars;
 Ducats, ducats following
 See the monster swallowing!
 Now of rouleaus flings a heap up,
 And I feel my bosom leap up;
 Now the cauldron's boiling over,
 And the ground all round 'twill cover.
 All of which we have been dreaming—
 All for which we have been scheming—
 'Tis your own—'tis but to snatch it;
 Yours, if only you can catch it.
 Snatch it! catch it! seize the offer,
 While we carry off the coffer!

Herald. The fools! what are they at? What do you
 mean?
 Know you not that all this is but a scene
 In a masquerade? You've spoiled the evening's play.
 Think you that men their money give away,
 And money's worth, so lightly? Counters would,
 To throw about among you, be too good.
 Clowns! they imagine that a show, forsooth,
 Should at the same time be the plain coarse truth.
 Truth! why your whole life is a lie. The True—

What meaning, rascals, could it have for you ?
 Up, thou, that mummett thee in Plutus' part—
 Thou that the hero of our revels art—
 Sweep the field clear of these scoundrels.

Plu.

Aye, your wand

Will do the work : entrust it to my hand.

~~The~~ road—I promise you that this will keep it

Clear. See ! the wand, into the fire I dip it.

Now, then, for it, Maskers—now of yourselves take care.

How it does crackle !—with what lightning glare

It flashes out ! And now the wand is lit,

And every one who ventures too near it

Will be singed and scorched.

I say, take care of your skins :

Be warned in time, my circuit now begins.

Cries and Crush. "How he does whisk the rod about !"

" 'Tis over with us all, no doubt."

"Back ! back ! I say." "I'll keep my place."

"The fire-spray flashed into my face."

"Ha ! but 'twas heavy—that hot mace."

"Back, there ! back ! back, Maskers ! vile pack !"

"Back, stupid rascals ! back, I say !"

"Aye, had I wings to fly away."

Plu. The circle's wider now, and all is right ;

None singed or scorched, though all pushed back in fright :

Yet, to secure some order, it were well

Round us to draw a cord invisible.

Herald. You have done wonders ; forced back to the ranks

These noisy mutineers ; accept my thanks.

Plu. There still is need of patience, noble friend ;

Signs many tumults manifold portend.

Starv. Now, with this charmed ring round me, at my case

I may deal with the ladies as I please.

There's something comic in their forward paces—

They always so crowd up to the front places ;

Where anything is to be seen worth seeing,

At mask or merry-make, they're sure of being,

With eager lips and eyes ;—are young and lusty,

The jades—and I'm not altogether rusty.

A pretty girl's a pretty girl, do you see ?

And, let me tell you, is not lost on me.

To-day 'twill cost me nothing : I'll do lover.

Words in the crowd can scarce be made intelligible

To the quickest ear ; but could we not discover
A language of expression much more eligible ?
I have been pondering o'er it this some time,
And think that I could play a pantomime.
Gestures—hand—foot—significant shrug of shoulders—
To reach the eyes of the crowd would scarcely answer ;
I've something else to show, that all beholders
Will recognise at once. I'm no romancer.
Gold—pliant gold—I'll mould it. The moist clay
Takes any shape—and everywhere makes way.

Herald. What is the fool at ? The lank fool ! can it
Be that this hunger-bitten thing has wit ?
He is in an odd humour. See ! the gold
Under his hand into a paste is rolled.
He kneads it—presses it : the red soft ball
He shapes, reshapes, leaves shapeless after all.
He turns him to the women. At the sight
They scream, and, if they could, would take to flight.
Disgust is in their glances ; but for ill
The rascal is at his devices still.
With him to scoff down decency is quite
A matter of amusement and delight.
To suffer this in silence were disgrace :
Give me the staff to drive him from the place.

Plu. The danger from without he does not see.
His mad pranks let him play out at his will ;
They'll soon be over, for Necessity,
Strong as is Law, than Law is stronger still.

*Enter FAUNS, SATYRS, GNOMES, NYMPHS, &c., Attendants
on PAN, and announcing his approach*

Tumult and Song. The savage host comes suddenly
From wooded vale, from mountain high—
Worshipping their mighty Pan—
With a resistless cry !
They know that which to none but them is known :
Straight to the empty circle sweep they on.

Plu. I recognise you and your mighty Pan.
A daring step to take, a rash bold thing ;
I know what is not known to every man,
And open as I ought this narrow ring.
Oh ! may the issue favourable be !

Whither this strange step leads they do not see.
The world may gaze on wonders unforeseen
To spring to life from what to-night has been.

Wild Song. Ye, in holiday array,
Decked with gaud and glitter gay,
See, where rough they come and rude—
The powerful, active, strong-built brood—
With rapid run, with active spring,
Leaping light into the ring.

Fauns. The Fauns, a merry group, in pleasant dance,
With oak-leaf wreath on their crisp curls, advance.
A fine sharp-pointed ear up presses,
To meet the curly tresses.
A stumpy little nose, a broad flat face,
Are no bad passports to a lady's grace.
In dances, from the paw of the young faun
The fairest lady's hand is not withdrawn.

Satyr. The goat-foot Satyr now hops in,
With shrunk leg—sinewy and thin.
He, chamois-like, from mountain height,
Looks round him with a proud delight.
In the keen air breathes freedom—life ;
Despises homestead, child, and wife,
Who in the valley's depth contrive,
'Mid stream and smoke, to keep alive,
Nor envy him his world on high—
His solitudes of cliff and sky.

Gnome. And now trips in a tiny band ;
Not two and two, or hand in hand.
With lamplet bright, in mossy dress,
In intermingling lines we press.
Each mannikin on his own labours
Intent, nor thinking of his neighbours.
Thus hither, thither, in and out,
Like shiny ants, we run about.
A kindly crew, a thrifty race ;
Our haunt, the poor man's dwelling-place ;
Chirurgeons of the rocks well known,
Our skill in mountain practice shown.
We cup and bleed the hills ; we drain
Of its best wealth the mineral vein ;
Fling liberally the metals out :
" Cheer up ! cheer up ! " our joyous shout.

Benevolent is our intent,
 And good is still to good men meant.
 The good man's friend ; yet from the earth
 We drag into the light of day
 The gold for which men steal and slay,
 And woman gives her soul away.
 Nor, thanks to us, shall iron brand
 Be wanting to the proud man's hand,
 Who murders wholesale. Take man's life,
 Or steal, or take another's wife :
 Break these commandments three, the rest
 Will soon be slighted or transgressed.
 We grieve not : we are clear of blame,
 Guiltless and calm. Be thou the same !

Giants. Here come the wild men, fierce and fell—
 Among the Hartzberg heights that dwell :
 Tumultuously down they throng,
 In nature's naked vigour strong ;
 The pine-stem in each rough right hand ;
 Below the waist a padded band,
 A leafy screen above the knees :
 The Pope hath life-guards none like these.

Nymphs in Choir [surrounding the great PAN, who now appears]. He comes ! The Universe is here
 In Pan presented. Round him dance,
 All ye that be of happiest cheer,
 With antic measure, sportive glance !
 Earnest he is, and kindly, and his will
 Is to see all around him happy still.
 Under the blue roof of the vaulted sky,
 He sits reposing with a wakeful eye ;
 Lists to the lullabies soft waters keep,
 And breezes that would rock him into sleep.
 When he sleeps at middle day
 No leaflet stirs upon the spray—
 Spirits of sweet herbs silently
 Are breathing through the still soft sky ;
 Nor may the Nymph be gay
 In that hush of noontide deep ;
 And, where she stood, she stands, in languorous sleep.
 When, with unexpected shout,
 His tremendous voice rings out,

Like lightning among crashing trees,
 Or the roaring of the seas,
 As the sound rolls hither, thither,
 All would fly ; but how ? or whither ?
 Hosts in battle hour are quailing,
 Heroes' hearts with terror failing :
 Honour to whom honour's due,
 To the leader of the crew !

Deputation of Gnomes [to the great PAN].

If a rich and sparkling treasure
 Winds through cliffs its secret threads,
 'Tis the rod of the diviner
 Shows the labyrinthine beds.

Troglodytes, in sunless grottoes,
 Vaults below the earth, we live ;
 Thine, the wealth that thence we bring thee,
 To the eye of day to give !

We have found a wondrous fountain,
 Well of wealth that, overflowing,
 More than a whole life could gather
 In a moment is bestowing.

Without thee it is imperfect ;
 Thou, for others still possessing,
 Take it. Wealth to thee entrusted,
 To the whole world is a blessing.

Plu. [to HERALD]. Keep cool ! for strange things are
 about to be ;
 But what will come, let's bear it cheerfully.
 You're not a man without some self-control,
 An incident comes on that well may try it—
 Stiffly will this age and the next deny it :
 Set it down truly in your protocol.

Herald [laying his hand on the staff which PLUTUS holds].
 With what soft steps these miniatures of man
 Lead to the fount of fire majestic Pan ;
 Up from the deep abyss the torrents seethe,
 Then sink into a lower gulf beneath.
 The open mouth stands for a moment black,

Till whirl the many-coloured billows back.
 The monarch of the woodlands, in delight,
 With a child's wonder, gazes on the sight;
 And the gold-river, like a living thing,
 Seems to enjoy the rapture of the king—
 Leaps up exultingly, and in its play
 Scatters all round foam-showers of pearly spray.
 There he stands musing, o'er the fountain bent :
 —Oh! trust not that wild wilful element.
 But see! his beard drops down, falls in.
 Who is he? who?—the smooth soft chin
 Hid by his hand? The beard takes fire,
 Flies back, the blaze is mounting higher!
 The garland crackles on his brow,
 And head and breast are burning now.
 The flames, the efforts to subdue them
 And beat them under, but renew them.
 Caught in the blaze the masks are all
 Burning. Disastrous festival!

But what's the rumour, that I hear
 That whispered runs from ear to ear.
 Oh! luckless evil-omened night!
 What suffering hast thou brought and sorrow!
 On what a scene the morning light
 Will dawn!—sad night!—unhappy morrow!

The cry swells louder than before,
 "The Emperor! the Emperor!"
 He is in danger, is in pain—
 The Emperor's burned, and all his train.
 A curse on them who would advise,
 And lead him on in this disguise,
 Laced up in this fantastic trim,
 And these pitch twigs, to ruin him
 And themselves, with their mad roar
 And song and revel evermore:
 He and they together go,
 'Tis universal overthrow!

Oh! Youth, impetuous Youth, and wilt thou never
 Curb the wild impulse of life's happy season?
 And Power, imperious Power, wilt thou not ever,
 Acting Omnipotence, give ear to Reason?

See ! on our mimic forest fierce flames play,
And lapping here and there and everywhere,
Up to the raftered roof sharp fire-tongues play.
In smouldering ashes, work of one black night,
Imperial splendour meets the morning light.

Plu. Fear thus far hath had its sway,
Now bring Help into the play.
See ! the holy staff we bring—
With it smite and smite the ground
Till it tremble, rock, and ring,
And obey the magic sound.

Hush ! the cool airs from beneath
A delicious fragrance breathe.
Vapours of the valley, rise !
Float and flow into the skies !
Come, ye mists that from the plain
Loaded are with the soft rain ;
Cloudy fog-streaks, be ye spread
O'er the fire-waves raging red ;
Languid winds, from all sides blow,
Waft the soft dews sailing low,
That in upper air encamping,
Curl the cloudlets drizzling, damping ;
Hither come, ye moist ones, playing ;
Fleecy folds come darkening, brightening,
Come, with gentle winds allaying—
Calm the ire of the false fire
Into peaceful summer lightning,
Or faint sunset's watery glow !

When Spirits threaten is the hour
For Magic to assert its power.

IV

PLEASURE GARDEN

MORNING SUN

*The EMPEROR—His Court—*FAUST and MEPHISTOPHELES,
dressed becomingly in the usual Court dress of the day:
both kneel. LORD HIGH STEWARD, GENERAL,
TREASURER, PAGES, FEUDAL LORD, and COURT FOOL

Faust. Sire, pardon you of flames this magic show !

Emperor. Oh ! that I often were deluded so !

All of a sudden a new realm I trod,
Seemed of the world of fire the very God ;
Coal-rocks, more black than night, for ever fed
Bright flamelets, bursting from that marble bed ;
While here and there from seething gulfs would rise
A thousand flames that whirled into the skies,
Where, playing loose in air, they hung aloof.
Flickered and waved, and formed a vaulted roof ;
Whence tongues of light, that intermingling crost,
Gave to the eye a dome, now seen, now lost.
Between far fire-shafts, wreathed with curling flame,
Long lines of nations, onward moving, came
Toward me : in wide rings streamed the pressing crowd—
My subjects all— and all to me in homage bowed.
And evermore some courtier's well-known face,
'Mong the strange visages that thronged the place,
Would catch my glance, and claim a moment's grace.
With thousand salamanders circled round,
I seemed the prince of that enchanted ground.

Meph. Thou art ! The Elements owe thee allegiance !
Fire ! thou hast tested it—gave prompt obedience.
Throw thee into the boiling Ocean's waves,
And straightway all sea-spirits are thy slaves !
Here, too, in pride of conquest, shalt thou tread
Triumphantly the ocean's pearl-strewn bed ;

See billows ever round thee rise and fall,
 And guard thee with their undulating wall.
 The tender green waves, purple-tinged, are swelling
 To form in the drear deep thy royal dwelling.
 The billows do thee homage. Through the brine
 A palace moves with every step of thine.
 The walls are happy in the magic gift
 Of life, exulting as, with arrow-swift
 To and fro gambollings, their place they shift.
 And the sea-monsters float up from their caves,
 To the mild lustre glimmering through the waves,
 Throng to the light, till now unseen; but they
 Fear to come nearer thee, and dart away:
 And dragons, golden-scaled, their high crests rear,
 And sharks, whose jaws gape wide, but cause no fear.
 Thou art a prince! but ne'er on Levée-day
 Hast thou beheld so brilliant a display.
 Beauty smiles on thee: the Nereidés
 Come to the very windows, if you please,
 Of the fresh-water palace in the seas—
 The young ones, shy and rather curious fish,
 The older, sober girls as one could wish.
 Thetis has heard it—holds out hands and lips:
 A second Peleus will the first eclipse;
 —Then on Olympus height thy place to be!

Emp. The realms of Air I'd rather leave to thee:
 We are in no hurry to ascend that throne.

Meph. And Earth, great prince, already is thine own.

Emp. Through what good fortune have I chanced upon
 This wonder of the Thousand Nights and One?
 If, like Scheherazadé, most prolific
 Of story-tellers, you would every day
 Give something new—oh! that were a specific
 'Gainst dulness that I never could repay.
 Be ready still with such delightful tales
 Of wonder when despondency prevails,
 And cares upon the sinking spirit weigh—
 Still cheer me when all else to cheer me fails.

Lord High Steward [*steps hastily in*]. May it please your
 Highness, I had never thought
 That it at any time could be my lot
 Such joyous tidings to communicate
 As fill me now with rapture—every debt

Has been paid off, the usurers' claws are dulled,
My tortures—sharper than hell's torments—lulled.
There cannot be in heaven a happier man.

General [follows hastily]. The army's paid whatever
'had been due,
The soldiers to their colours pledged anew,
The merry Lanzknecht's got a large advance,
And girls and vintners bless the lucky chance.

Emp. You breathe more freely, and your careworn face
Has actually assumed a cheerful grace;
And what a step!—why, I protest, you run!

Trea. [entering]. Ask these men, they will tell what they
have done.

Faust. The Chancellor will please to state the case;
It falls in with the duties of his place.

Chan. [advancing slowly]. Who could have ever dreamed
such happiness

Would come the days of my old age to bless.
Listen! and look upon the heaven-sent leaf,*
That into joy hath changed a people's grief.

[Reads].—"To all whom it concerneth, and so forth:—
This note of hand, that purports to be worth
A thousand crowns, subjects to such demand
The boundless treasure buried in the land.

And furthermore, said treasure underground,
To pay said sum is, whensoever found,
And wheresoever, firmly pledged and bound."

Emp. Audacity unheard of!—foul deceit!
Who signed the Emperor's name to such vile cheat?
What punishment can for such crime atone?

Trea. Forget you, Sire, the writing is your own?
This last night you were in the character
Of Pan: we saw the Chancellor prefer
The suit. He said, "A few strokes of your pen
Will bless the people over whom you reign.

Do make them happy on this festal night."
And then you did take up the pen and write.
No time was lost. A thousand artists plied,
A thousandfold the scroll was multiplied;
And that the good to every one might fall,
We stamped at once the series, one and all.
Tens—thirties—fifties—hundreds off we strike!
Never was anything that men so like:

Your city, mouldering and in despair,
 Has caught new life, and joy is everywhere.
 Long as your name was by the world held dear,
 Never did it so brightly shine as here—
 The alphabet ! what is it to this sign ?—
 To this “ hoc signo vinces ” note of thine ?

Emp. For good gold, then, in Court and camp it passes,
 And for good gold is taken by the masses ?
 I must permit it, though it does seem odd.

Lord High Steward. The papers flying everywhere
 abroad—

Stop it—oh yes !—the lightning flashes stop—
 At every banker's booth and money-shop,
 For each leaf you can have (deducting still
 Some discount) gold and silver, if you will.
 Then off with you to butcher and to baker,
 Vintner, and such like—tailor, sausage-maker.
 Half the world passes—wealth is such a blessing—
 Its days in feasting—the other half in dressing—
 Flaunting in their new clothes—show their new riches—
 The mercer cuts away—the stitcher stitches—
 And “ Long live Cæsar ! ” blurt out, 'mid the ringing
 Of plates—of boiling, broiling, swearing, singing.

Meph. And he who walks alone the public ways,
 And fixes on the fairest there his gaze,
 And sees her move, with bland attractiveness,
 In all the splendour of imposing dress ;
 The peacock's proud plume shades one eye, the while
 She smirks, and simpers by with meaning smile—
 Methinks she sees, and seems to understand
 The import of this little note of hand.
 Aye ! and it wins from her, as by a spell,
 The favours that my lady has to sell.
 When words are weak, and wit all out of joint,
 'Tis this that brings a woman to the point :
 Close in the bosom, hidden there from view,
 It lies so nicely in a *billet-doux*.
 The priest—he now no purse or scrip need bear—
 Devoutly folds it in his Book of Prayer.
 The soldier moves more freely, at his loins
 No longer carrying a weight of coins.
 Pardon me, Sire ; on such details to dwell,
 No doubt seems trifling with the miracle.

Faust. The treasure that within the land lies deep
Entranced, as 'twere, in an enchanted sleep,
Frozen and fixed—useless, while unemployed—
This may be disemprisoned, be enjoyed.
Man, in imagination's boldest hour,
To reach such treasure's limit has no power.
The intellect strives ever, strives in vain,
Some dim anticipation to attain;
But Spirits grasp it—see beyond the sense—
Have in the Boundless boundless confidence.

Meph. An easy substitute for gold and pearls
This paper is, and its convenience such,
We know at once how little, and how much
We have: no need of testing and of weighing;
No chaffering, cheapening, proving, or assaying,
But to the vintner's, or the merry girl's,
Off with us! Wish we specie—little danger
Of waiting long to find a money-changer.
At worst it is but digging—in a trice
You shovel up cup and trinkets plenty; call
An auction, for the bill make quick provision,
To the discomfiture and shame of all
Who looked upon our project with derision.
Once used to them, men will have nothing but
These leaves—so easy to receive and spend;
And the realm circulates, from this hour out,
Jewels, and gold, and paper to no end.

Emp. [*to FAUST and MEPH.*]. You've done the State
some service, and a meed
Appropriate to such service I've decreed.
We do appoint you now, of our good pleasure,
Our custodees of subterranean treasure.
Wealth from all other eyes that Earth holds hid,
Guard; let none dig or delve but as you bid.

[*To the OFFICERS OF THE TREASURY*]

And, Treasurers, as behoves in your high place,
Aid with becoming dignity and grace.
Thus shall we see, with profit and delight,
The Upper- and the Under-world unite.

Trea. No danger, Sire, of discord or debate,
Or deficit, now that my happy fate
Makes the magician my associate.

[*Exit with FAUST*]

Emp. If I distribute gifts among my Court,
How will they use them? let each tell me now.

1st Page [*receiving his gift*]. I'll pass my life in gaiety
and sport.

2nd Page [*receiving*]. I'll buy a frontlet for my lady's
brow :

Rings in her ear and on her hand shall shine.

Chamberlain [*taking his present*]. I'll drink two flasks
for one, and better wine.

Another. The dice, I feel them—and the itch of play.

Feudal Lord [*thoughtfully*]. I'll free my castle from its
debts to-day.

Another. A treasure!—yes, a treasure!—with the rest,
I'll hoard it up securely in a chest.

Emp. I thought to have waked the ardour that inspires
Bold enterprise—new deeds and new desires.
Wealth leaves you each employed at his old game—
The same! I should have known you—still the same.

The COURT FOOL (*who had been supposed dead*) *presents
himself*

Fool [*approaching*]. You shower down gifts, let me
have part of the shower.

Emp. What! you alive! you'd drink them in an
hour.

Fool. Drink?—magic leaves! I comprehend you not.

Emp. Strange if you did! you'd use them badly, sot!

Fool. There, more are dropping—I do not know what
To do.

Emp. Do! take them, they fell to your lot.

[*Exit* EMPEROR]

Fool. Five thousand crowns! the words are written
plain.

Meph. What, two-legged bladder, on thy feet again?

Fool. Aye! down, then up, seldom so well as now.

Meph. How glad you look, the sweat runs down your
brow.

Fool. And is this money? look at it; what do you
think?

Meph. Money, no doubt of it, and meat and drink.

Fool. And will it buy me corn, land, house, and
kine?

Meph. No doubt of it: bid only, they are thine.

Fool. Castle and park, and forest, fish-pond, chase?

Meph. All these—and then the title of Your Grace.

Fool. I'll have the castle; sleep to-night in it. [*Exit*

Meph. [*alone*]. Who but will now acknowledge our fool's wit?

V

A DARK GALLERY

FAUST. MEPHISTOPHELES

Mephistopheles. Why drag me down these dismal passages?

A pleasant notion of what pleasant is
You seem to have. The merriment within,
The gay throng of great people crowding thick—
Why drag me from it? 'tis the very scene
For drollery, cajolery, and trick.

Faust. Speak not of that. You cannot but have been
Out-wearied with its sameness long ago,
The glitter is all gone of that poor show.
The purpose—or I take it so to be—
Of all your restless shuffling to and fro,
Is to escape a moment's talk with me.
Now I am tortured into act though loth—
The Chamberlain and Marshal at me both.
The Emperor's impatient for the play
Of Helena and Paris, so they say:
He wills it, and there must be no delay.
The model forms of man's and woman's beauty
He would behold as they appeared in life:
Swift to the task—up, Spirit! do thy duty.
The Emperor waits—I may not break my word.

Meph. So lightly to have promised was absurd.

Faust. This comes, companion, from the arts you use:
We made him rich, and now we must amuse.

Meph. You think the thing is done as soon as said.
Here before steeped more perilous we stand,
That guard the frontier of a foreign land.
Art rash enough the hostile ground to tread?

Aye! with the devil to pay, 'tis mighty cheap,
 Worlds of new debt upon your head to heap.
 Would you call up their Helena of old,
 Like those pale paper phantoms of false gold?
 Of witch materials from the yielding sex—
 Of dwarfy men, with puffed and pursy necks—
 Of midnight ghosts and goblins, and the stuff
 That ghosts are made of, you shall have enough.
 But devils' drabs—though good things in their way—
 Would not quite do your heroine parts to play.

Faust. Aye, twanging on the same old string again!
 Why is it that you never can speak plain?
 Consult with you! that always is about
 One's worst expedient—you suggest new doubt.
 The father of all hindrance—your advice,
 An agent's—for each job who has his price;
 Mumble but a few sounds, and, quick as thought,
 While one looks round, you have them on the spot.
Meph. I and the Heathen never hit it well.
 They're none of mine, and they have their own hell.
 But there are means——

Faust. Speak! speak! delay me not.

Meph. But there are means—reluctantly do I
 Unveil a higher Mystery—Goddesses
 August enthrone themselves in loneliness.
 Place none around them, glimpse of Time still less.
 They are—we speak not of them, scarce will think—
 They are the Mothers——

Faust. Mothers! .

Meph. Do you shrink?

Are you shuddering?

Faust. Mothers! mothers! It sounds strange.

Meph. And is so. Goddesses beyond the range
 Known to you mortals. We of them would keep
 Strict silence. For their homes you may scrape deep
 Under the undermost. Aye, go there, do.
 You have yourself to blame for it; but for you
 We'd have no need of them.

Faust. The road?

Meph. The road!

There's no road. Road!—road to where none have trod
 Ever—none ever will tread!—road to where
 I warrant never suppliant bent in prayer,

Nor ever will hereafter ! Art thou ready ?
 No locks are there—no bolts to be pushed back ;
 But solitudes whirl round in endless eddy.
 Canst grasp in thought what no words can express—
 Vacuity and utter loneliness ?

Faust. You might have spared, methinks, this solemn
 • speaking ;

Something of the old time it seems to smack ;
 Brings back the very smell of the witch kitchen.
 Have I not dealt in the world ? and have I not
 There learned the empty ?—there the empty taught ?
 What I saw clearly, if I spoke out plain,
 Was I not doubly contradicted then ?
 And to escape the blows from all sides given,
 To savage solitude was I not driven,
 Till sick of life in such dull sameness passed,
 I gave me over to the Devil at last ?

Meph. And hadst thou swum through ocean, even within
 Its shoreless desolation, thou wouldst see
 Wave on wave coming everlastingly,
 In the very jaws of ruin ; something still
 Would meet the eye—say, dolphins on the green
 Of the smooth surface, sporting at their will ;
 Cloud-shadows trailing—sun, moon, many a star,
 In the illimitable void afar
 Nothing whatever—nothing there is seen.
 Where your foot falls the unsubstantial ground
 Sinks down—still sinks ; you move—you hear no sound.

Faust. The very rant of the hierophant
 When he is wheedling some poor neophyte.
 Your promise though is the reverse of his,
 And its results in all things opposite.
 You'd send me to the empty to increase
 Science, Art, Power. I see what you are at—
 The old tale of the chestnuts, and the cat
 Scorching his paws in the cinders. Never mind,
 I'll sift it to the depth : in this, your evil
 Find good—in this your nothing all things find.

Meph. We part ; but I must own you know the devil.
 Here take this Key.

Faust. That little thing !

Meph. . Aye, take
 And hold it tight, nor little of it make.

Faust. It swells!—it shines!—it flashes in my hand!

Meph. The virtue there is in it, understand!
The Key will scent the Mothers to their lair.
Follow his guidance down, and you are there.

Faust. The Mothers! it falls on me like a blow.
How can a word—a sound—affect me so?

Meph. Such narrow-mindedness! At a new word
Quailing!—wouldst never hear but what you've heard?
If—pardon me—a meaning's to be found,
Beyond what your thoughts reach to, in a sound,
Is that a matter to astonish us,
So long inured to the Miraculous?

Faust. Think not in torpor that I place my weal.
'Tis man's—'tis man's to shudder and to feel
The Human in us, though the world disown
And mock at feeling, seized and startled thus,
In on itself by strong revulsion thrown,
Thrills at the Vast—the Awful—the Unknown.

Meph. Sink then! I might say rise—'tis one. Fly
far

From earth—from all existences that are,
Into the realms of Image unconfined.
Gloat upon charms that long have ceased to be:
Like cloud-wreaths rising, rolling, the combined
Army of Apparitions rush on thee.
Wave high the Key, and keep them at far length—
From thy person keep them.

Faust. As I grasp the Key,
My heart expands to the great work, and strength
Is given me. Onward!

Meph. A burning Tripod tells thee thou hast found
The deepest—art below the deepest ground;
And by its light the Mothers thou wilt see—
Some sit, and others stand, or, it may be,
In movement are. Formation. Transformation,
Eternal Play of the Eternal Mind,
With Semblances of all things in creation,
For ever and for ever sweeping round.
Onward! They see thee not, for they but see
Shapes substanceless. There's risk—be bold—be brave:
Straight to the Tripod; touch it with the Key.

[*FAUST takes a firm commanding attitude with the
Key*

Meph. [*looking at him*]. All's right ! it clings !—it follows ! Faithful slave !

Thou reascendest—Fortune raising thee—
Calm, self-possessed, as one that knows not fear ;
Ere they have marked thine absence, thou art here.
Bring but the Tripod hither, and from night
Hero and Heroine you may raise to light—
The first to venture on such bold design.
'Tis done ; to have accomplished it is thine—
And now as the magician bids, the clouds
Of waving incense shape them into Gods.

Faust. And now ? what now ?

Meph. Thy being downward strain.
Stamp, and you sink ; stamp—you ascend again.

[*FAUST stamps and sinks*]

Meph. [*alone*]. If the Key lead him but in the right
track !

—I wonder, is he ever to come back ?

VI

BRILLIANTLY LIGHTED HALLS

EMPEROR and PRINCES. *The COURT in motion.* CHAMBER-
LAIN, LORD HIGH STEWARD, MEPHISTOPHELES, BLONDE,
BRUNETTE, DAME, PAGE

Chamberlain [*to MEPH.*]. Give us the Spirit scene without
delay—

The Emperor's impatient for the play.

Lord High Steward. 'Twas but a moment since his Grace
did ask

About it. Haste ! The party was made for
This show of yours, and the thing must be done,
Or you will compromise the Emperor.

Meph. My friend's this very moment at his task ;
He has gone away to work at it—has gone
To his study ; has begun it ; 'twill go on
Well—I've no doubt of it. Closeted close, none dare
Disturb him as he works in secret there.

Who would raise up such treasure—would bid rise
The Beautiful—needs for the enterprise
The highest Art—the Magic of the Wise.

Lord High Steward. It matters not what arts you call
to aid ;

The Emperor's will is that the play be played.

A *Blonde* [to *MEPH.*]. A word, an't please you, sir. You
see my face

Is now quite clear ; but 'tis another case
When summer comes. In the hot horrid weather
A hundred brown-red spots sprout out together,
Hiding the white skin, clouding it with freckles.
A cure, sir !

Meph. Pity, that a face so pretty,
That smiles so dazzlingly on me to-day
Should look so in the month of merry May,
Like a young panther's hide—all spots and speckles.
Take frog-spawn, toads' tongues—stew all in a skillet,
And when the moon is at the full distil it ;
And in the wane, be sure to spread it on.
Spring comes and goes—the freckles, too, are gone.

A *Brunette* [having made her way to him]. The crowd
throng round, they fawn on you and flatter ;
May I a plain word speak ? A little matter
Ails me. A cure, my lord ! A frozen foot
Mars walking, dancing, spoils even my salute
When I would curtsy.

Meph. If you would but grant
Me just to press your foot——

Brunette. With a gallant—
A lover—I might do it.

Meph. Child ! the print
Of my foot hath a deeper meaning in't.
A cure will follow if my foot but strike,
Whatever the disease. 'Tis like to like
Forms the great secret of the healing art.
Thus foot cures foot, and so with every part.
Now for the tread, which you need not return.

Brunette [screaming]. Pain ! pain ! it was a hard stamp,
like a burn,
As of a horse-hoof. How can I endure
The torture ?

Meph. With the torture take the cure.

At dances you can now with pleasure move,
At table mix feet with the man you love.

Dame [*pressing forward*]. Me!—let me through! I
cannot bear the pain;

It boils up from my heart—it burns my brain.
Last night he lived but in my glances; he
Chats with her now, and turns his back on me.

Meph. A case of difficulty 'tis and doubt.
You must press gently up to him—hear me out—
This cinder keep, and with it on his cloak
Or on his sleeves or shoulder make a stroke,
Or any part that may your fancy take:
Remembrance and repentance will awake.
The cinder you immediately must swallow;
Wine must not touch your lips, nor water follow
This food. He sighs before your door to-night.

Dame. There is not poison in it?

Meph. [*enraged*]. Honour bright!
Think who you speak with. Long enough in vain
Might a man search to find the like again.
It came from one of the old wizard-pyres.
—We've not been lately stirring up the fires.

Page [*approaching*]. They scorn my love—they say 'tis
but a boy's.

Meph. [*aside*]. Whom shall I listen to? What crowds!
what noise!

[*To the PAGE*]. Tell not to growing girls your hopes and
fears;

Youth is not valued but by those in years.

[*Others press up to him*]. There—more; no end of comers
—age and youth.

My last, sad, only refuge is the truth.

Oh, Mothers! Mothers! let but Faustus loose.

[*Looks round*]. The lights already glimmer in the hall

The whole Court's moving thither, one and all.

Each pressing after each in their degrees,
Through the long walks, down the far galleries.

And now they gather in the ample space
Of the old Knight's Hall, and scarce find place.

O'er the broad walls the tapestry hangs rich,
And armour gleams from every nook and niche.

It needs no charm to bid the Spirits come:

Your ghosts are here if anywhere at home.

VII

HALL OF THE KNIGHTS, *dimly lighted*

EMPEROR and COURT *have entered*. HERALD, ASTROLOGER,
MEPHISTOPHELES, ARCHITECT, FAUST, LADIES,
KNIGHTS, &c.

Herald. The usage of announcing our new play
Must to necessity for once give way.
The Spirits keep their secrets, and in vain
We seek the hidden magic to explain.
The seats arranged, the chairs are ready all—
The Emperor placed in front of the high wall.
There, worked in tapestry, he may behold
In peace the wars of the great days of old.
Now the Court circle's filled, and all around
Crowds throng the benches, lining the background.
Lovers find room near lovers, and their fear
Will press them closer when the Ghosts appear.
And so, all being settled and at ease,
We are quite ready. Rise, Ghosts, if you please.

[*Trumpets*]

Astrol. Begin the Drama! 'tis the Sire's command.
Obedient to his will, ye Walls expand!
Magic for everything that we require,
In any exigency. is at hand.
The curtain, curling as though touched by fire,
Is gone—the wall divides—turns round, and there
Before us stands, far in, a theatre,
With light mysterious—none can say whence come;—
And I ascend to the Proscenium.

Meph. [*peeping out of the prompter's box*]. No player
like me, so up to all stage trick!
And prompting is the devil's rhetoric.
[*To the ASTROLOGER*]. The tune, to which the Stars keep
time, you hear,
You'll catch my whispers with but half an ear.

Astrol. By Magic raised a temple here behold,
A massive structure of the days of old—
Like Atlas, who propped heaven up long ago,
Stand pillars, plenty of them, in a row.
Their load of stone such columns well may bear ;
'Twere a large building asked more than a pair.

Arch. And this is the Antique ! You cannot force
Me into praising it—'tis cumb'rous, coarse.
But rough, it seems, is noble ; clumsy, grand.
Give me the structure men can understand.
Our long, thin, narrow pillars, I so love,
Striving into the boundlessness above.
The sharp-arched zenith lifts us to the skies.
Give me the edifice that edifies !

Astrol. Welcome with reverence this star-favoured hour ;
Be Reason bound in words of magic power ;
Let Fancy lord it, wandering, wild and free ;
All the mind images the eye will see ;
All the eye sees, the mind as true receive :
It is impossible, and so believe.

[*FAUST is seen ascending on the other side of the
proscenium*

Astrol. In priestly robe attired, with flower-wreathed
brow,
A great magician stands before you now,
Redeeming the bold promise that he gave—
A tripod with him from a hollow cave
Of the realms under earth is rising up :
I scent the fragrance of the incense-cup.
He arms himself now the mighty work to bless,
And we can augur nothing but success.

Faust. In your name, oh, ye Mothers ! you, whose
throne
Is in the boundless—you, who dwell alone,
Yet not in uncompanioned loneliness.
Around your head the flitting fantasies press
Of life, yet without life. What was, what cast
The splendour of its presence on the Past,
Yonder, as erst, abides eternally—
It was, and having been, will ever be.
It you distribute, beings of all might,
To-day's pavilion, to the vault of night :
Some through life's cheerful pageant sport their hour,

Some the bold magian seeks, and subjects to his power,
And, fearless now, to the expectant gaze
His wonder-works he lavishly displays.

Astrol. The burning Key hath scarcely touched the
bowl,

When round us undulating vapours roll,
And in, like rising clouds, the dense mists slide,
Wave—lengthen—form a sphere—unite—divide—
Are two—and they—surpassing wonder of
The spirits' skill!—make music as they move.
It comes, one knows not how, from tones of air;
The melody moves with them everywhere
The pillar-shaft, the very triglyph rings;
I do believe that all the temple sings.
From the light veil, as by the music led,
A lovely youth steps forth with measured tread.
The waving mist-wreath falls. He stands out clear.
Who does not see the graceful Paris here?

Lady. What vigour there! and with such youthful
grace!

2nd Lady. How fresh the peach-bloom on that fair soft
face!

3rd Lady. How finely carved each sweet and swelling lip.

4th Lady. From such a cup delicious 'twere to sip.

5th Lady. He's handsome, but I cannot think refined.

6th Lady. More elegant he might be, to my mind.

Knight. I see the traces of the shepherd-boy;
No manners—nothing of the Prince of Troy.

2nd Knight. Yes, thus half naked he looks pretty well:
Show him in armour—that's the way to tell.

Lady. How calmly he inclines him—he would rest.

Knight. A pleasant couch for you were that soft breast.

Lady. He bends his arm above his head—what grace!

Cham. Rudeness—'gainst all proprieties of place.

Lady. Yon chamber-knights find fault for evermore.

Cham. To stretch and yawn before the Emperor!

Lady. He acts his part—he thinks himself alone.

Cham. The Theatre should not forget the Throne.

Lady. Sleep on the fair youth softly seems to fall.

Cham. Belike he'll snore; you know 'tis nature all.

Young Lady [enraptured]. What fragrance mixes with
the incense-wreaths,

And on my heart delicious freshness breathes!

Elderly Lady. Yes, all hearts feel a breath of rapturous power !

It flows from him.

Old Lady. It is the growing flower
Of human life, that as ambrosia here
Blooms in the youth, and fills the atmosphere.

[HELENA advances]

Meph. This, then, was she ! My rest she'll never break.
Fair, doubtless ; but with me she does not take.

Astrol. Here all at fault, I own it, I must seem.
She comes ! the all-beautiful ! Oh that a tongue
Of fire were mine ! The poets, who have sung
Of Beauty, did but picture their own dream.
They saw not. Who hath seen her—sees her—is
Entranced, is dumb. To win, to call her his—
Oh ! that it could but be !—Wish wild and vain !

Faust. Do my eyes see ? or deep within the brain
Doth the full fountain of all beauty shed
Its gushing torrents ? Oh ! what glorious gain
Is mine ! bright issue of that journey dread—
The world—yet undeveloped, undisclosed,
How mean ! how abject !—rose up in the hour
Of my initiation, robed with power
And on its own eternity reposed.
No painted cloud, no transitory gleam,
No sand-drift now of unsubstantial dream,
But kindred with man's heart, indeed divine.
If that in thought I ever part from thee,
Oh ! may I in that moment cease to be !
The shape that won me from myself away
Amused me in the magic mirror's play—
How faint ! how feeble, to these charms of thine !
In thee life's springs of power and passion live.
Life of my life ! to thee myself I give !
Love ! adoration ! madness of the heart !

Meph. [from the prompter's box]. Collect yourself—you
fall out of your part.

Elderly Lady. Shapely and tall—only the head too
small.

Younger. Look at the foot—'tis clumsy after all.

Diplomatist. I have seen princesses ; from head to foot
I do pronounce her beauty absolute.

Courtier. Softly she steals to where he sleeping is.

Lady. She shocks me.—Near that pure young form of his !

Poet. He is illumined in the light serene.

Lady. Endymion !—Luna !—'tis the very scene
As painted.

Poet. Yes ; the goddess downward sinks,
And o'er the sleeper bends ; his breath she drinks.
How enviable !—a kiss !—the measure's full.

Duen. What ! before all the people—that is cool.

Faust. Distracting favour to the boy !

Meph. Be still.

Do let the phantom lady have her will.

Cour. She glides away on light foot ; he awakes.

Lady. Looks back—I thought so—I make no mistakes.

Knight. He's stricken dumb ! “ Is this the work of dreams ? ”

Thinks he : “ what strange things came on me in sleep ! ”

Lady. She is, methinks, a dame that knows, not “ seems,”
And her experience holds such strange things cheap.

Cour. And now she turns to him with such calm grace.

Lady. I see there's a new pupil in the case—

An unformed boy belike of tender age ;

And she would take him into tutelage.

In such things all men are so very dull.

Poor lad ! he fancies he's the first she has taught.

Knight. What dignity ! so calmly beautiful !

Lady. A vile coarse wretch ! no better than she ought.

Page. Oh that I were in that young shepherd's place !

Cour. Who would not in a net like this be caught ?

Lady. The gem from time to time, with many a one,
Has been from hand to hand still shifted on—
The gilding rubbed off many a year ago.

Another Lady. From ten years old she has been but
so-so.

Knight. Yes, Fortune favoured them. Yet how divine
The precious relic—would that it were mine.

A Learned Man. I see her, but it is not free from doubt
That she's the Helen men so talk about.

The danger of illusion here is great ;

The eye misleads and will exaggerate.

“ Stick to the written letter ” is my creed ;

I look into my Homer, and I read

How she so pleased all the old men of Troy ;

And here methinks the self-same thing we see ;
I am not young, and she so pleases me.

Astrol. He hath cast off the dreamy shepherd-boy ;
Wakes into hero—into man. See ! see !
He seizes her—she hath no power to flee—
With his nerved arm uplifts her. Can it be ?
Thinks he to force her hence ?

Faust [to PARIS]. Rash fool! give o'er.
Dare it! defy me! I can bear no more.

Meph. These spirit-freaks, these odd extravagancies
Are mere stage-trick—they but act out your fancies.

Astrol. One word. From what we see, I think we may Presume "The Rape of Helen" is the play.

Faust. What!—Rape!—Am I then nothing here? The
Key—

Is't not still in my hand? It guided me
Through waves, and horrors, and the hollow roar
Of wildernesses waste, to this firm shore.
Here do I plant my foot—here actual life
Is, and reality—high 'vantage ground
From which the spirit with spirits may well dare strife,
And for itself a double empire found.
She was—how far away she is!—how near!
Rescued, is doubly mine—is doubly dear.
Crown, Mothers, crown the daring with success.
Who hath known her must perish or possess!

Astrol. What dost thou, Faust! Faust! look at him!
He grasps at her—the phantom shape grows dim.
Now to the youth he points the Key—and, lo!
He touches; he hath touched him! Woe! woe! woe!

[*Explosion.* FAUST lies on the ground. The Spirits
dissolve in vapour

Meph. [*takes FAUST on his shoulder*]. Aye, now he
has it, aye. Yes, yes, just so ;
Your fool's a heavy load in any case,
And brings the devil himself into disgrace.

[*Darkness. Tumult*

ACT II

I

A HIGH-ARCHED NARROW GOTHIC CHAMBER, FORMERLY FAUST'S—UNALTERED

MEPHISTOPHELES, CHORUS OF CRICKETS, FAMULUS,
BACCALAUREUS

MEPHISTOPHELES *steps out from behind a curtain ; while he raises it, and looks back, FAUST is seen stretched out on an old-fashioned bed*

Meph. Lie down there, luckless ! lie down, wretched thrall

Of this inexplicable, inextricable
Love-tangle ! His is the worst case of all.
Whom Helen paralyses, little chance
Has of recovering ever from the trance. [*Looks round him*
As I look up—down—round me—here,
Nowhere does any change appear.
Perhaps some slight shade in the colour
Of the stained glass—a trifle duller.
The spiders' webs are spread more wide ;
The paper's yellower, the ink's dried.
All things in their old position—
All things in their old condition.
The very pen with which he signed away
Himself to the devil, look at it there still !
Aye, and the drop of blood I coaxed from him,
A dry stain crusts the barrel of the quill.
What a rare object of vertu to seek
For your collector !—happiest of men,
Could he but get possession of the pen !
Envied proprietor of such unique !
And the old sheepskin on its own old hook,
Brings back that comic lecture, which so look

With the poor boy, who ever since, no doubt,
All its deep meaning still keeps puzzling out.

My old warm furry friend, I like thy look !
I long again to wrap me round in thee,
And put on the Professor, in full blow
Of lecture-room infallibility !
How is it, that these sorry bookmen know
So well to get the feeling up ? Ah me !
In the devil it has died out, ages ago.

*[He takes down and shakes the old fur gown ; crickets,
chaffers, moths, and other insects fly out*

Chorus of Insects. Hail to thee ! hail to thee !

Patron and father ;
Welcome and welcome be !
Swarm we and gather
To welcome thy coming,
Hovering and humming.
In the faded and rotten,
Of chambers neglected,
In darkness forgotten,
One by one, unperceived,
Didst thou silently plant us ;
Now thousands on thousands,
In sunlight and glee,
We sport and we flaunt us.
Dust is rife
With dancing life,
Buzzing and welcoming,
Welcoming thee.
The scoundrel still skulks him
The bosom within,
More close than the moth
In the furry old skin.
Many are we—many are we,
Every one of us welcomes thee.

Meph. With what surprise and rapturous delight
This young creation glads its maker's sight ;
If a man do but sow, he may be sure
Time in due season will the crop mature.
I give the old fleece another whisk about,

And here and there an odd one flutters out ;
 Up and around, in corners, holes, and shelves,
 My darlings, find out snug berths for yourselves.
 Yonder, where broken boxes block the ground,
 And here in the old parchments time-embrowned ;
 In dusty potsherds, faded curtain shreds,
 And in the eye-holes there of dead men's heads—
 Come, moth and maggot, people once again
 The rubbish that in life was called the brain !

[Slips into the gown]

Up on my shoulders, hurry friend ! and then
 I for the hour am Principal again.
 But I must summon them o'er whom I claim
 Dominion, or there's nothing in the name.

*[He pulls the bell, which gives a harsh piercing sound,
 at which the halls shake, and the doors spring
 open]*

Famulus [tottering up the long dark passage]. What a
 sounding ! what a shaking !

Stairs are trembling, walls are quaking ;
 Through the window's colour-flashes
 Lightnings tremble !—tempest crashes !
 Is the floor asunder parting,
 Roof in ruins downward falling,
 And the bolted doors back starting
 Through some wonder-work appalling ?
 And look yonder, where a giant
 Stands in Faust's old fur, defiant ;
 And, with beck and glance and winking,
 Me he silently is calling :

And I faint ! my knees are sinking.

Shall I stand my ground ? or fly him ?

Stay ! what ?—stay ! be murdered by him ?

Meph. Come hither, friend ; your name is Nicodemus.

Fam. *[crossing himself].* High honoured master ! 'tis
 my name—*Oremus*.

Meph. Sink the *Oremus* !

Fam.

I'm so glad to see,

Kind master, that you've not forgotten me.

Meph. I know you well—in years, but still in love
 With study—books you're always thinking of,
 Most learned ! most mossy ! even a deep-learned man
 Still studies on because 'tis all he can :

'Tis like one building to a certain height
 A house of cards which none can finish quite.
 Your master, he is one, it may be said,
 Who always hits the nail upon the head—
 The well-known Doctor Wagner—anyhow
 The great man of the world of letters now:
 His genius 'tis, that all inspires, unites,
 While science mounts with him to prouder heights.
 There gathers round his chair an eager ring
 Of hearers—men who would learn everything.
 He, like Saint Peter, holds the keys—can show
 The secrets of above and of below;
 He shines in all; no reputation is
 In any way to be compared to his—
 None anywhere now to be placed with him.
 Even Faust's fame's beginning to grow dim—
 He has made the great discoveries of our days.

Fam. Pardon, most noble sir; permit me to
 Speak, sir; permit me just to say to you
 That he is one who would shrink from such praise.
 His is a modest mind—he does not aim
 At rivalling the mighty master's fame.
 Since the great master's disappearance, he
 Seems ever wrapt in strange perplexity.
 For his return he looks, for health and hope
 From it—and thus his spirits he keeps up.
 The chamber as in Doctor Faust's day
 Remains—no change made since he went away:
 There, 'tis kept waiting for its own old master.
 Myself—I scarcely venture to go in.
 What say the stars? does the hour bode disaster?
 The walls, as though with terror struck, still shake;
 The doors flew open, every bolt sprang back;
 Else you had not come in here—you, even you.

Meph. Where is he?—bring me to him—bring him
 here.

Fam. Ah, sir, the prohibition's too severe—
 'Tis scarce a thing that I could venture on.
 Intent on the great work, he has lived alone
 For months in the stillest stillness. Only think,
 Think of this neatest, nattiest of all
 Our bookmen, blacked with soot from ear to nose;
 And his eyes blearing, and their raw red blink,

As with throat parching at the fire he blows ;
 For the true moment every moment longs—
 His music still the clatter of the tongs !

Meph. To me he'll scarce deny the entrée. I'm
 The lucky man, and this the lucky time.

[*Exit FAMULUS*]

[*MEPHISTOPHELES sits down gravely*]. I scarce have sate
 down in my place,

When, hark ! a stirring from behind,

And I behold a well-known face :

My old friend, sure enough, again I find.

But now he comes in the bold bearing

Of our newest schools ; spares nothing, nobody—

Dashing 'gainst all things, no bounds to his daring

Baccalaureus [*storming along the passage*]. Gateway free,
 doors loose, locks broken,

Are a promise and a token

That the living, as of old here,

Shall not now like dead men moulder ;

Pining, festering, putrefying,

Where to live itself is dying.

Walls are bending in and crumbling,

Tumble-down partitions tumbling ;

Roof and joist will fall asunder,

Crushing everybody under.

Than myself of spirit few are

More courageous, with heart truer ;

Yet the prospect is so cheerless

As to force back the most fearless.

One step farther into danger

I'll not take for friend or stranger.

Very odd to-day the changes

Seem, as back my memory ranges,

When I was "the fox" well hunted,

And with jibe and jeer affronted ;

When the grey-beard old deceivers

Classed me with their true believers—

One who all their figments hollow

As the bread of life would swallow.

Lying rascals, dry and crusty,

Primed from their old parchments musty

What they taught, and disbelieved it,
But as handed down received it ;
What they taught with no misgiving
Robbed themselves and me of living.

But see sitting in brown study
One of these same bright and muddy,
In the clear obscure, the glimmer
Of the grey light growing dimmer ;
There he sits as first I found him,
With the rough brown sheepskin round him.
Then he seemed to me right clever,
Great man of the place ; however,
That was all in the gone-bye time
—The world's nonage : now 'tis my time.
I know him now ; he cannot catch me now—
That day is over : at him, anyhow.

If, old sir, your bald head in Lethe's pool
Hath not been soaked, you may with those
 slant eyes
The scholar of an old day recognize.
But now remember I am out of school,
And rid of academic rods and rule.
You, sir, are just the same as long ago ;
I am not what I was, I'd have you know.

Meph. I am so glad my bell hath hither brought you—
Even when a boy, no common boy I thought you :
The grub and chrysalis denote
The future butterfly's gay coat.
I well remember your delighted air,
Your peaked lace collar and your flowing hair :
Proud, child, you were of that same curly pate.
You never wore the queue and crown—
It had not to your day come down.
And now to find you in a Sweden tête,
. Determined, resolute, from head to foot.
Oh ! come not home with that imperious frown,
The barefaced terrors of the Absolute.

Bac. Old gentleman, we are in the old place ;
But change of time has come and changed the case.
'Tis out of season to affect

This motley two-edged dialect,
 You long ago might play at make-believe :
 Small art need any man employ,
 To fool an unsuspecting boy,
 Whom no one now will venture to deceive.

Meph. If, speaking to the young, pure truth one speaks,
 It little suits the callow yellow beaks ;
 Years come and, what they heard from us, when brought
 Back by their own experience dearly bought,
 They deem it all the fruit of their own skull—
 Speak of their master as supremely dull.

Bac. Or—as a knave, for who that deals with youth
 Speaks, face to face, direct the honest truth ;
 Your teacher still will strengthen or dilute,
 Palates of pious children as may suit.

Meph. Learning and Teaching—there's a time for each ;
 Your time for learning's over : you can teach.
 Moons many since we met—some suns have rolled ;
 You must have gained experience manifold.

Bac. Experience ! foam and bubble, and its name
 Not to be mentioned with the Spirit's claim.
 Confess it ! nothing was till this day done
 Worth doing in Science—Science there was none.

Meph. I have thought so long—I had always a thick
 skull ;
 I now confess to “ silly—shallow—dull.”

Bac. That so delights me !—some hope of you yet !
 The first old man with brains I have ever met.

Meph. I dug for gold, I found but cinders horrid ;
 I cried them up for treasures rich and rare.

Bac. Confess then that your barefaced bald old fore-
 head
 Is nothing better than the dead skulls there.

Meph. [*calmly*]. Friend ! you are most discourteously
 replying.

Bac. Courtesy ! in plain German, that means lying.

Meph. [*moving with his wheel chair towards the proscenium,
 addressing the audience*]. Light—air—no quarter up
 there ! You'll be civil !

You're sure to show your kindness to the devil.

Bac. It is the very height of impudence,
 That what is dead and gone should make pretence
 Of being in existence. Man's life lives

But in the blood—and the blood, where, in truth,
 Stirs it so vigorously as in youth?
 The young blood lives, aye! and in eager strife
 Shapes to itself a new life out of life.
 There's all is progress! something still is done—
 The feeble falls, the active presses on.
 We have won half the world—yes! youthful man
 Hath won it; meanwhile what have you been doing?
 Slept, nodded, dreamed, weighed, thought, plan after
 plan

Suggesting still, and languidly pursuing?
 Old age is a cold fever's feeble flame,
 Life's peevish winter of obstruction chilling,
 Man is at thirty dead, or all the same—
 'Twere better kill you while you are worth killing.

Meph. To this the devil himself can nothing add.

Bac. Devil? Devil there can be none without my
 willing.

Meph. [*aside*]. The devil's close by to trip you up, my
 lad.

Bac. [*exultingly*]. This is the noble mission of the
 young—

Earth into being at my bidding sprung;
 The sun in pomp I led up from the sea,
 The moon in all her changes followed me.
 For me in beauty walked the glorious day,
 The green earth blossomed to adorn my way.
 'Twas at my beck upon that primal night,
 The proud stars shed through heaven their spreading
 light.

Rescued is Man, and by what hand but mine,
 From galling bondage of the Philistine?
 I—for the Spirit speaks within me—freed
 Follow the inward light where it may lead,
 Fearless and fast, with rapture-beaming mind,
 Glory before me, and the Dark behind.

Meph. Original! move onward in your pride.
 Oh! how the spirit would sink mortified,
 Could you but know that long ago
 All thoughts, whatever, dull or clever,
 That cross the twilight of your brain,
 Have been o'er and o'er again
 Occupying other men.

Yet, have no fears for him ;—in a few years
 The absurd works off, the ferment clears,
 The folly will subside, perhaps refine ;
 The must at last is wine, and no bad wine.

[To the younger part of the audience who do not applaud]

Too bad to see the auditors so cold !
 And yet I must forgive the young beholder
 His lack of sympathy. The devil is old.
 To understand him better, boys, grow older !

II

LABORATORY

In the fashion of the Middle Ages. Cumbersome, heavy apparatus for fantastic purposes

Wagner *[at the furnace]*. The bell ! how fearfully it chimed !

With what a shudder, thrilling through
 These old walls, smoke-begrimed !

The agony of hopes and fears
 That tortured me is at an end.
 The cloudy darkness clears.
 From deep within the phial glows
 A living ring of fire, that throws
 Far its red light, and through the night,
 As from the carbuncle, in bright
 Lightning-like lustre flows.

And now !—and now !—at last 'tis come ! a pure clear
 pearly white !

Oh ! that I may not lose it this time—Hark !
 Again ! A something rattling at the door.

Meph. *[entering]*. Welcome ! I bring such luck as in
 my power.

Wagner *[anxiously]*. Welcome ! To come just at the
 planet hour !

[*In a low voice*]. Hush! not a breath, while you look on intent.

A mighty work of wonderful event
Is at the moment of accomplishment—
A man is being made!

Meph. [*in a whisper*]. A man! and will it
Be soon done? are your lovers in the skillet?

Wagner. Heaven help you! the romance of action,
passion,

Father and mother, is quite out of fashion.
I've shown up pretty well that idle pother—
The thought of child by no means implies mother:
The tender point from which life sprang and started
Is gone—clean gone—the glory all departed.
The eager impulse from within that pressed,
Received and gave, and, prompt to manifest
Itself, went on advancing by degrees,
The nearest first, the foreign next to seize,
Is from its dignity deposed, dethroned,
From this day forward, disallowed, disowned.
No doubt the old views may still for the brute
beast

Answer, but man, high-gifted man at least,
Will have a higher, purer form of birth.

[*Turns to the hearth*]

Look yonder! see the flashes from the hearth!
I hope for the world dawns there, that, having laid
The stuff together of which man is made,
The hundredfold ingredients mixing, blending
(For upon mixture is the whole depending),
If then in a retort we slowly mull it,
Next to a philosophic temper dull it,
Distil and re-distil, at leisure thin it,
All will come right, in silence, to a minute.

[*Turning again to the hearth*]

'Tis forming—every second brings it nearer—
And my conviction becomes stronger, clearer.
What Nature veils in mystery, I expect
Through the plain understanding to effect;
What was organization will at last
Be with the art of making crystals classed.

Meph. Who has lived long will never be surprised—
Nothing in the world is new. I've long ago

Met, in my years of going to and fro
And up and down in earth, men crystallized.

Wagner [*gazing intently on the phial*]. It forms ! glows !
gathers ! in a moment more

The work's accomplished never done before !
Broach an unfolded project, men suspect it,
Scoff at it, as a madman's dream reject it ;
We, in our turn, may laugh when the event
Is placed beyond the reach of accident.

Think of the thinker able to produce
A brain to think with fit for instant use !

[*Gazing on the phial with complacency*]. The glass rings
low, the charming power that lives

Within it makes the music that it gives.

It dims ! it brightens ! it will shape itself.

And see !—a graceful dazzling little elf.

He lives ! he moves ! spruce mannikin of fire,

What more can we ? what more can earth desire ?

Mystery is no longer mystery.

Listen ! a sound ! a voice ! and soon will be

Intelligible words addressed to me.

Homunculus [*in the phial, to WAGNER*]. Ha ! father
dear ! how goes it ? 'twas no jest ;

Clasp me affectionately to your breast.

Not quite so tight. So fervent an embrace

Incurs the risk of breaking the glass case.

Essentially distinct, the Natural

Finds in the Universe no resting-place,

The Artificial needs restricted space.

[*To MEPHISTOPHELES*]. Ha ! rascal ! my old cousin, are
you here ?

Good fellow at such moment to appear.

What luck has brought you ? nothing could in fact

Be timelier. While I am, I still must act ;

I would address myself to work at once,

And you're the very fellow for the nonce.

Wagner. A word, just one short word : till now I blushed

At my own ignorance, when thousands rushed

Up to my chair, and young and old perplexed

My brain with problems intricate and vexed ;

As, for example, none can comprehend

How soul and body in such union blend,

Inseparably bound together they,

Yet battling with each other every day.

So then——

Meph. A moment! pray, resolve the doubt,
How happens it that man and wife fall out?
On this, my friend, we'll get no satisfaction.
Here's work to do we had better set about:
The little fellow's attribute is action.

Homun. What's to be done?

Meph. [*pointing to a side-door*]. Thy talents here employ.

Wagner [*still looking into the phial*]. Thou art indeed a very lovely boy!

[*The side-door opens. FAUST seen stretched on a couch. The phial slips from WAGNER'S hands, hovers over FAUST, and shines on him*

Homun. Expressive!—

Lovely scenery all around!

A clear lake in the dusk grove's deep recess;
Nymphs playfully that to the water press;
And—what a pretty picture!—they undress.
Well! that's not bad; and near the lake's green bound,
Distinct from all, that countenance divine!
—To look on her is to adore and love.
Daughter seems she of old heroic line,
Or of the children of the Gods above.
Her foot she dips into the light serene
Of the waves' trembling crystal, cools the flame
Of life that glows through all that noble frame.
But what a rush and rustle of quick wings,
With splash and crash through the smooth mirror rings!
The maidens fly in terror; but the Queen
In womanly composure smiles to see
The prince of swans wind gently to her knee,
Nestling up to her—how familiarly!
Bold suitor, not to be denied is he!
—But suddenly a rising vapour draws
A curtain close of thick-inwoven gauze,
Hiding the loveliest scene.

Meph. Why, what a world in all you do relate!
For such a little fellow, you're a great
Romancer—visionary, rather. I
See nothing.

Homun. That I do believe, for why,

While Asmodæus—this none calls to mind—
Still goads them on, and mocks them from behind.
They fight, they say, where Freedom's banner waves :
Seen truly, 'tis a war of slaves with slaves.

Homun. Leave them to wrangle on. Man's nature and
Condition everlasting war demand ;
Each has to guard himself as best he can
From boyhood up, and so grows into man.
But that's for them, not us. The matter now
Before us is to cure this man—but how ?
If you have any remedy, apply it ;
If you have none, then there's mine, let me try it.

Meph. Oh ! I know many a charm and Brocken spell
Should in a common case soon have him well ;
But here, where heathen bolts resist, repel,
I can do nothing. These Greeks never were
Worth anything ; yet do they dazzle you
With the free play of the senses, that so wins
The human breast, and lures to cheerful sins.
Ours are of soberer cast and graver hue ;
And now——

Homun. 'Twas not your habit to be coy ;
You'll find Thessalian witches there, my boy !

Meph. Thessalian witches ! They are persons whom
I have been asking after. I wish to
Make their acquaintance—just an interview ;
Night after night with them would never do.
It were, I fancy, dreary merriment
But for a visit—but for an experiment.

Homun. The mantle—trot him out—'tis good strong
stuff,
And carries double—'twill do well enough ;
Come wrap the knight in it, neck and feet.
Off with us ! Here, leap up into your seat—
Here, catch the skirt ; I'll light you on your way.

Wagner. And I——

Homun. And you—oh ! you at home may
stay,
The main pursuit of life, as now, pursuing.
Spread the old parchments out as you are doing ;
The scattered elements of life collect,
Combine them as the recipes direct ;
In nothing from the letter deviate thou :

Think of the "what," but still more of the "how";
 While o'er a section of the world I fly,
 To hit, perhaps, the dot upon the "i."

The triumph's won, the mighty work attained,
 The well-earned meed of thousand efforts gained;
 Gold, honour, reputation, long life, health,
 —Science, perhaps, and virtue—surely wealth.

Farewell!

Wagner. Farewell! The cold word chills my heart:
 Never to meet again, I feel, we part.

Meph. Away we go! swift to Peneios tend!
 There's something in my bright young cousin's aid.
 [*To the SPECTATORS confidentially.*] In the end, we all
 depend
 On the creatures we have made!

III

CLASSICAL WALPURGIS-NIGHT

1

THE PHARSALIAN FIELDS

Darkness

Erichtho. To this night's shuddering festival, as often-
 times ere now,
 Once more I come, once more, Erichtho, I the gloomy,
 Not quite the hideous hag o'erslandering poets picture—
 Their praise and blame is ever in the Infinite.

Already o'er the vale, in shadowy undulation,
 Roll glimmering before mine eye what seem to be grey
 tents,
 Spread wavelike far and wide: phantomly reappearance
 Of that all-anxious night—dread night of deepest sorrow.

How oft doth it repeat itself!—how oft to be repeated!
 Evermore and for ever! None of his own free will
 Yields empire to another; none to him

Who by strength gained it, who by strength would govern.
Who cannot rule his inner self would fain his neighbour's
will

Strain to the stubborn measure of his own proud thoughts.

In these fields, by armed hosts, in conflict and in conquest,
Memorably was it exemplified.

Force 'gainst superior force for mortal strife is marshalled ;
Freedom's fair wreath, rich with its thousand flowers,
Breaks. The stiff laurel bends to crown the ruler's brow.
Here Magnus saw in dreams the unforgotten day
Of earlier greatness spreading into glorious blossom ;
Cæsar lay sleepless there, and watched the wavering
balance—

And they will measure strengths. The world knows who
prevailed.

Watchfires burn bright, diffusing their red beams around—
The 'soil breathes up, in crimson stain, blood, outpoured
here of old :

And by its strange glare, streaming far through the night's
magic brightness,

Allured, the legion gathers of Hellenic story.
Round every fire flit with uncertain glimmer,
Or rest at ease, some of the fabulous shapings
Of the days of old. The moon, not yet at full,
But bright, uprising now spreads over all
A softening lustre mild. The phantom tents
Are gone. Illusion fades off. Fires burn blue.
But over me what a strange sudden meteor !
It guides, and with its light illumines, a ball
Corporeal. I scent life ! 'twould ill beseem
Me, to life noxious. to be near the living.
'Twould bring me ill repute, and profit me
Nothing. Already it sinks down. 'Twill land
Here. Ere it touch the ground I move away.

[Exit

Moonlight.—HOMUNCULUS, MEPHISTOPHELES, GRIFFINS,
COLOSSAL ANTS, ARIMASPIANS, SPHINXES, SIRENS, &c.

The AERONAUTS seen above, before they have descended

Homun. Sweep o'er flames and sights of horror
Once again in circling flight !

Spectral shapes through gorge and valley
Flit in the phantasmal light.

Meph. Spectres, hideous as the phantoms
That I gazed on from the gloom
Of that drear old Northern window !
Here I feel almost at home.

Homun. See, with rapid steps before us,
A tall female figure stride !

Meph. As through air she saw us gliding,
She retreated terrified.

Homun. Let her stride on ! think not of her !
Set the knight upon the ground ;
Here in the charmed land of Fable,
Will the life he seeks be found. [*They descend*

Faust [*touching the ground*]. Where is she ?

Homun. That I cannot say ;

But here would seem the very place t' inquire.

No time to lose ! from fire to fire,

Pursue the chase till break of day.

He, who has dared the adventure of the Mothers,
Has little reason to fear any others.

Meph. I've my own objects here, and our best play,
It strikes me, for the good of us all three,
Is that each take his own course, and that we
Among the fires, as fancy guides us, stray.
'Tis so much pleasanter when one pursues
His own adventures just as he may choose.
And, small chap, when 'tis time to reunite,
Let chime your glass, let flare and flash your light.

Homun. [*the glass rings and shines out wonderfully*].
Thus shall it ring—thus flash forth ray on ray.
Now to the scene of wonders haste away !

[*They separate*

Faust [*alone*]. Where is she ? why ask where ?
If it be not the sod, on which her feet
Trod, and the wave that beat
To welcome her, it is the air
That spoke her language. Here ! and I am here—
In her own Greece, miraculously here !
I felt at once the earth on which I stood—
In sleep there came a spirit that through my blood
Poured, as it were, the fire of burning lev'n.
Now, like Antæus, as I touch the ground,

I find the strength of inspiration given,
Roam this wild maze of fires with happy cheer
Where all things strangest are together found.

[*Withdraws*]

Meph. [*prying about*]. At every step, as 'mong these
fires I roam,

I find myself still less and less at home.
What an odd crowd of creatures brought together!—
Birds' claws, dogs' paws, men's faces, fleece, fur, feather.
Their decency is little sure to brag on—
Most of them naked! here and there a rag on!
The Sphinxes unabashed, the Griffins shameless,
Making no secret of what should be nameless.
We all are rakes at heart—each likes a touch of it;
But the antique, to my taste, has too much of it:
It is too lifelike—dealers with old story
Are never at a loss for allegory.
And so with the antique, we too should cover it,
Find one thing or another to paste over it.
A nasty set, I'll never know them rightly;
A stranger should, however, speak politely.
Hail! Ladies fair! Hail! Very Reverend
Grey-beards!

Griffins [*gruffly*]. What! means the fellow to offend?
Grey-beard, or grey bird, what does he think to say?
My name is Griffin—do not call me grey:
Grey! bird or beast, none likes to be called grey.
Grey-beard, forsooth! However far they range,
Words ring their origin in every change;
In “grey,” “grief,” “graveyard,” “grim,” and each such
sound,

The thought, etymologically bound,
Offends, puts the best temper out of tune.

Meph. And yet, not to give in to you too soon,
The “gri” in Griffin, your own honoured name,
Is not displeasing.

Grif. [*in the same tone*]. Aye, and for the same
Reason; the kindred thought you still can trace—
Our “gri” is grip or grasp—we grasp at place
And honours, grasp at kingdoms, girls and gold
Nor we alone—though some affect to blame,
In practice 'tis the universal game.
Fortune still aids the Griffin, grasper bold.

Colossal Ants. Gold!—Said you gold? laboriously we plied,
 And heaps of it had grubbed, and sought to hide
 In cave and crannied rock far out of sight;
 Our hoarded gold the Arimaspians eyed,
 Made off with it—and, proud of their success,
 'Look at them laughing there at our distress!
Grif. Be at ease—we'll bring the rascals to confession.

The Arimaspians. But not to-night; not this free festival night:

Ours for the nonce is undisturbed possession,
 And ere the morning 'twill have vanished quite.

Meph. [*who has placed himself between the SPHINXES*].

Here is a spot that I can cotton to!

At home quite—I so understand them all!

Sphinxes. We breathe our spirit tones—by you
 They are made corporeal.

By-and-bye we may know something more of you;
 But now just tell us what's your name? pray do.

Meph. Name? Men are fond of giving names to me,
 And thus it is I've many a name. Let's see—
 Are any Britons here? No doubt there are,
 And they will vouch for me. They travel far
 To visit fields of battle, waterfalls,
 Your dreary classic ruins, broken walls.
 This were the very place for such as they;
 They will bear witness how in the old play
 They saw me there as "Old Iniquity."

Sphinx. Why so called?

Meph. 'Tis a mystery to me.

Sphinx. Likely enough. Know you anything of the power

Of the stars? What says the aspect of the hour?

Meph. [*looking up*]. Star after star shoots fast and far,
 and bright

And sharp shines down the crescent moon to-night.

Here in this comfortable spot and snug,

I'll nestle close to your warm lion-rug:

Go farther and fare worse.—To climb up would

Be dangerous, in no case do much good.

Out with a riddle—I've some small skill in.

Riddles—or tip me a charade,—begin.

Sphinx. Thyself—take that—there were a riddle indeed.
The strange enigma shall we try to read ?

“Needful alike to good man and to bad,
Target, the ascetic’s zeal to test and prove,
Accomplice in mad projects of the mad,
At all times nothing but a jest to Jove ?”

1st Grif. [*snarling*]. I do not like him—what a face !

2nd Grif. [*snarling more gruffly*]. The rascal does not
know his place ;

He’s none of ours—what brings him here ?

Both. A vile beast !—nothing good, I fear.

Meph. [*brutally*]. Aye, pretty treatment of a guest,
because

You think his nails can’t scrape like your sharp claws.
Let’s try them.

Sphinx [*mildly*]. If you like it, you may slay ;
But you’ll be off soon—are on thorns to go ;
—And yet such suitor for a lady’s grace
Is pretty sure at home to make his way.

Here you seem out of spirits, out of place.

Meph. I’m half in love—admire your upper show
Of woman—shudder at the beast below.

Sphinx. Liar ! for this you’ll suffer—scoffing thus—
Our claws are sound and sharp, we’d have you know—
The shrivelled horse-shank ! he ! too good for us !

[*SIRENS are heard preluding from above*]

Meph. And the Birds yonder on the poplar bough
That rock them to and fro, say, what are they ?

Sphinx. Beware ! beware !—the siren’s song ere now
Hath lured the wisest and the best away.

Sirens [*singing*]. Where no beauty is, why linger ?
’Mong these strange shapes wherefore dwell ?

Listen !—hither, grouped together,
We have come, and tune our voices
As besemeth sirens well.

Sphinxes [*mocking and mimicking them*]. Force them
from the branches green,
Where their falcon claws they screen ;
Fear to lend a listening ear
To their song ! their talons fear !

Sirens. Hate and Envy—hence begone !
All the joys, that Nature scatters
Over earth and over waters,

Ours to gather into one.
 Ever in our welcomings
 Still is seen the best, the "gayest,
 Happiest attitude of things."

Meph. [*mimicking*]. These are their new and pretty things.

From the throat and from the strings
 Tone round tone still winds and weaves.
 This thrilling is all lost on me,
 Tickles the ear—the heart, left free,
 Nothing of the song receives.

Sphinxes. Heart! why a leathern bag fills up the place
 Of heart with you, as shrivelled as your face!

Faust [*stepping forward*]. How wonderful all here!
 Strange spectacle!

But not unpleasing—nay, it augurs well.
 In these repulsive aspects, oh, what vast
 Features of power! what alien grandeur massed!
 Gazing on them, my hopes anticipate,
 And feel even now a favourable fate.
 To what far distant days—what far-off lands—
 This deep glance bears me!— [*Pointing to the SPHINXES*
 Before such as these

Œdipus stood—

And before such as these

[*Pointing to the SIRENS*
 Ulysses crouched him down in hempen bands.—

[*Pointing to the colossal ANTS*
 Such were the far-famed gatherers of gold!—

[*Pointing to the GRIFFINS*
 These guarded it in firm and faithful hold.
 New life thrills through me as I gaze on these.
 Forms! Oh, how grand!—How grand the Memories!

Meph. Such erewhile you'd have scouted; but at present

They seem to you delectable and pleasant.
 When a man's amorous, and has in chase
 The girl he wants, no monster's out of place.

Faust [*to the SPHINXES*]. Shapes, that seem woman,
 ye must answer me:

Have any of you seen Helen? Where is she?

Sphinxes. Seen Helen?—we? We reach not to her days.

The last of us was killed by Hercules.
From Cheiron you, perhaps, may make it out ;
He's pretty surely galloping about
In this wild-spirit night ;—catch him who can—
It is no easy task : but he's your man.

Sirens. Oh, go not from us !—go not from us !
Heed not what old fablers say
Of Ulysses onward speeding
From the Sirens of the bay.
With us he, in sweet repose,
Loitered long, and legends many
Had we of the times of Troy.
All to thee will we disclose,
All confide to thee with joy,
Dearer thou to us than any !
Come ! oh, come ! the glad green sea
Longs, with us, to welcome thee !

Sphinxes. Oh ! let them not delude thy noble mind.
As ropes Ulysses, let our counsel bind
Thee ! If the mighty Cheiron thou dost find,
'Twill prove us right.

[Exit FAUST

Meph. [fretfully]. What's that croaks by in flapping
flight ?

'Tis gone too quick to catch the sight !
One—two—three—ten—like shadows past—
Who thinks to catch them must fly fast.

Sphinxes. Swift as the winter tempest these,
Swift as the darts of Hercules ;
They are the Stymphalides.
Their vulture-beak and gander-foot
Look well ; but that is as one thinks.
Their croak is meant for a salute.
These croakers say they're cousins : count the links
Between them and the family of Sphinx.

Meph. [seeming terrified]. Beside the croakers, there's
some other stuff,
Hissing abominably—

Sphinx. Like enough.

• You—scared at hissing !—nothing, sure, in this.
They're always hissing who can only hiss.
These are the heads of the Lernæan snake,
Cut from the main stump off. What airs they take
On the strength of the separation !—shine as proudly

As the old serpent, and they hiss as loudly.
 But what are you now about? This restlessness,
 These gestures of such comical distress!
 What do you want, what is't you would express?
 Off with you! How his neck turns round awry—
 Oh! now I see what has so caught his eye.
 Don't think of us. He's off! They're pretty faces.
 No doubt of it; but have done with these grimaces.
 The group of Lamiaë—smart girls—no great matter
 Of beauty—bold fronts—red lips—smiles that flatter,
 And looks that have allurements for a Satyr.
 The goat-foot's sure to win such ladies' grace.

Meph. When I return shall you be in this place?

Sphinx. Thou and they may sport and play,
 —Airy shapes, that pass away;
 From Egypt we—and one of us is known
 For a full thousand years on the same throne.
 On our position fix your earnest gaze;
 We rule the lunar—rule the solar days.
 We sit before the Pyramids, we see
 Judgment done upon the Nations,
 War, and Peace, and Inundations.
 Change of feature none know we.

2

THE PENEIOS

Surrounded by WATERS and NYMPHS

PENEIOS, FAUST, NYMPHS, CHEIRON, MANTO

Peneios. Lull me still with thy faint whispers,
 Soft sedge! sister reeds, sigh low!
 Willow, wave with languorous breathing!
 Poplars, ye, that tremble so,
 Rocking still beside my stream,
 Murmur back my broken dream!
 A thick dense heat—a shudder dread,
 Secret, through all Nature spread,
 Wakes me in my rolling bed.

Faust. Is it that my ear deceives ?
 Sure I heard behind the leaves
 Other sounds than of the stream,
 That like human accents seem ;
 Tittering among the trees—
 Prattling ripple—laughing breeze.

Nymphs [singing]. Weary and way-sore,
 Oh ! were it not best,
 In the cool, for the tired limbs
 To lie down and rest ?
 To lie down, enjoying
 The rest that would fly thee,
 Enjoying the rest
 That the world would deny thee ;
 While we lull thee, and soothe thee,
 And linger close by thee.

Faust. Awake—I am awake—yes, yes
 I am awake ! Fade not away,
 Fair forms ! but still pursue your play
 Where my eye yonder shapes the scene.
 Dreams are they ?—are they memories ?
 How strange the feeling ! All that is
 Seems as though it before had been.

Where the cool bowering copse-wood weaves
 Its dance of agitated leaves,
 I hear—scarce hear—the water's flow !
 From all sides round, in hundred rills,
 It ripples down, unites and fills
 A clear bright space below,
 Where, in a pure bed, nothing deep,
 The crystal currents have their sleep.

Nymphs bathing--and from the moist glass we see,
 Amused, of sleek young limbs the double gleam.
 Grouped, swimming boldly, wading timidly.
 Hark ! splash of water ; laugh, and shriek, and scream !

This were enough to satisfy
 And charm the fascinated eye ;
 But the sense onward, onward still would press,
 Would pierce with searching glance the screen
 Of the rich bower, whose green recess
 Conceals the lofty Queen.

Strange ! very strange ! and swans, swans too are here !
 Majestically borne from cove and creek,
 In slumber-seeming motion on they steer.
 Companionable, kindly ; but what pride !
 Contemplating the softened image of
 Breasts snow-white, stately head, and arching neck
 As though with their own lovely forms in love,
 O'er the still mirror peacefully they glide.
 And one before the rest,
 Bold with expanded breast,
 Moves with imperial dignity and grace :
 His feathers, roughed out wide—wave on the waves—
 Through snowy foam that his white plumage laves,
 He presses to the dear, the dedicated place.
 And see the rest—reposing light illumes,
 While to and fro they float, their tranquil plumes.
 And lo ! they rouse them ; see ! the splendid strife :
 Fain would they chase away these maidens coy,
 Whose mistress, can she now their thoughts employ ?
 Their one thought is security—is life !

Nymphs. Sisters, listen ! lay your ear
 To the river's green marge here.
 Do I hear, or do I dream,
 Sound of horses' hoofs that seem
 Swift as of a courier's flight
 Bringing tidings of the night ?

Faust. Shocks, as of leaping thunder !
 Earth ! will it spring asunder ?
 Nearer and nearer now, and ringing loud
 Under the quick feet of a courser proud.
 Thither, mine eye, glance thither ! Favouring Fate !
 Is it to be ? Am I the Fortunate ?
 Wonder unparalleled ! and will it be
 A rider gallops hither. In his air
 What courage ! what intelligence is there !
 Borne by a courser white—blindingly bright.
 I err not ; 'tis no mockery of the sight.
 It is, it is the son of Philyra.
 Halt, Cheiron ! halt ! I have much to say to thee.

Cheiron. What say'st ? what is't ?

Faust.

A moment check thy pace.

Chei. I rest not.

Faust.

Take me.

Chei. Up! then. As we race,
You may give me the happiness of knowing
What you're about, and which way you are going.
We're on the bank; I'll take you 'cross the river.

Faust. Oh! as for that, I'll go whithersoever
You go.

• And I must thank thee evermore,
Noblest of men, whose fame 'tis to have taught
The Heroes of the glorious days of yore,
The Poet's world of Chief and Argonaut.

Chei. Pass over that—Pallas's own success
When she played Mentor could not well be less.
'Tis little matter what is taught, men will,
Taught or untaught, go on the same way still.

Faust. Physician, learned in names of herbs and fruits,
Who to the very deepest knowest all roots;
Wounds thou dost mitigate, and sick men cheer,
In spirit and in body art thou here?

Chei. Was a man wounded, I was in a trice
Upon the field with aid and with advice.
What I did, much or little, anyhow
The herb-women and priests inherit now.

Faust. There spoke the genuine great man, who dis-
claims
Peculiar merit in his acts or aims;
And though of all in every way the best,
'Gainst any praise still enters his protest.

Chei. You seem to me a flatterer of skill,
A practised hand in winding at your will
People and prince.

Faust. But, tell me,—you have seen
The great men of your time, and you have been
Rival, in everything that wins man's praise
Of the very noblest, didst live out thy days
True hero, demigod—say in thy thoughts
Who of all, that thou now rememberest,
Then figuring on earth 'mong men, seemed best.

Chei. In the high circle of the Argonauts,
Each, as the soul breathed power, distinction held;
Each in his own peculiar path excelled.
The DioscURI brothers won their way
Where youthful bloom and manly beauty sway;
In the Boreades, for others' weal

Sprang instant action from determined zeal.
 A thoughtful man, strong, energetic, clear,
 Such was Prince Jason, to the ladies dear.
 And tender Orpheus swayed the lyre—calm heart
 Was his—and his true miracles of art.
 Sharp-sighted Lynceus, he by day and dark,
 Through rock and strand steered safe the holy bark.
 In danger's hour true brotherhood is shown,
 Each works, and all praise each. Each works alone.
Faust. Will you say nothing then of Hercules?
Chei. Oh! call not back that feeling, wake thou not
 The longing for the old days that have been.
 Phœbus or Hermes I had never seen,
 Or Ares, or the rest; in Hercules
 The godlike stood before these eyes of mine
 Impersonated—all that of divine
 In dreams of heaven man's fancy hath conceived,
 All the mind imaged or the heart believed!
 A king by Nature made. What dignity
 In youth's first bloom!—How gentle, too, was he
 Gave to his elder brother service true,
 And loved the ladies with devotion due.
 Son such as he will never more be given
 By Earth for Hebe to lead up to heaven;
 Songs all in vain to make him know,
 Would strive, and sculptors torture stone.

Faust. Never did sculptor, labour as he might,
 Bring out such perfect image to the sight
 Of that imperial look, that godlike mind.
 But now that the most beautiful of men
 You thus have showed me, try your hand again
 With the most beautiful of womankind.

Chei. What? Woman's beauty!—The words, thus combined,
 Seem meaningless—the shape of faultless mould
 Too often a stiff image, marble-cold.
 Only the Being, whose glad life flows free,
 And sheds around it the perpetual cheer
 Of joyousness, hath interest for me.
 The Beautiful in its own placid sphere
 Rests all apart. Grace charms resistlessly,
 As Helen, when I carried her, and she—
Faust. You—carried—her?

Chei. Yes—I—upon this back.

Faust. Was there not hitherto perplexity
Enough? What more?—here sitting where she sate.

Chei. She grasped into my hair, as you do now.

Faust. My brain whirls round—oh! tell me when and
how

It ~~was~~. She is my sole desire; say when
And whence, and whither, whither?

Chei. The Dioscuri brothers had just freed
Their little sister from the spoiler's hand;
And now upon their homeward road they speed.
Again the robbers pluck up courage, and
The brothers, with whom Helena then was,
Would clear Eleusis' swamp in rapid flight:
They waded, and I, pawing, swam across.
Then sprang she off, and my moist mane she smoothed,
Patted me with her fondling hand, and soothed.
And then she thanked me, and with such address,
Such self-possession, such calm consciousness!
She was—how charming!—young and the delight
Of the aged.

Faust. Then just seven years old, not quite
Seven.

Chei. What! the philologues have been with you,
Puzzling your brains, themselves deceiving too;
Your mythologic lady has no age,
Is from her very birth-time all the rage.
Like nothing but herself: in childhood carried
By spoilers off—recovered—wooed—won—married.
Years but increase her charms, bring lovers plenty;
She's never old—nay, never comes to twenty.
Lovely, and to be loved! The Poet seizes
The fair form and does with her what he pleases.
The Poet is not bound by time or distance.

Faust. Time for her! time then can have no existence.
And so Achilles found her—Time the while
Ceasing to be—on Leuke's lonely isle
Strange hap was theirs of blissful ecstasy—
Love wrung from unrelenting Destiny!
And would my powerful longings, all in vain,
Charm into life that deathless form again—
Eternal as the gods? Yes! gentleness
And winning grace are hers, and not the less

Hers the calm sway of dignity serene.

You saw long since whom I *to-day* have seen.

And she is beautiful. 'Tis not the spell,

'Tis not the spell of gracefulness alone—

'Tis beauty, beauty irresistible !

We see, we love, we long to make our own.

With her enraptured soul, sense, being twine—

I have no life if Helen be not mine.

Chei. Stranger ! this rapture men would call the flame
Of love ! with spirits madness is its name.

'Tis lucky that the fit has seized you here,

And on this night, of all nights of the year ;

It is my wont each year, upon this night,

For one short moment in my circling flight,

To visit Manto, Æsculapius' child,

Who in her father's temple, priestess there,

Still lifts her supplicating hands in prayer,

That he illumine the physician's mind,

And from their rash destroyers save mankind—

The best loved of the sibyls' guild ; no wild

Mad raving there, but ever good and mild.

Health will come soon from simples of the field

Applied by her.

Faust. But I would not be healed ;

My mind is now all-powerful. Dispossessed

I sink to man, no better than the rest.

Chei. In the noble fount is healing—scorn it not.

Now, down ! Down quickly ! we are at the spot.

Faust. Whither hast brought me in the grey of night,
Landing me in the splash and pebbles here ?

Chei. See ! on the left Olympus. On the right
Pencios. Here strove Rome and Greece in fight ;

A mighty kingdom melts in sand away—

The monarch's flight—the burgher's triumph-day.

The eternal temple resting in the clear

Light of the moon stands out—how very near !

Manto [*dreaming, from within*].

This a something doth import.

Threshold rings, and temple-court,

Horses' footfalls echoing.

Demigods are entering.

Chei. All's right ! Open your eyes, and see all's
right.

Manto [*awaking*]. Welcome ! I see you have not missed the night.

Chei. Unfallen still stands your ancient temple-home.

Manto. Unwearable you still range and roam !

Chei. You rest in changeless bower of quiet deep,
And *I* in everlasting circuit sweep.

Manto. I tarry—round me still wheels rolling Time.
But—this man——

Chei. The mad night hath seized him in
Its whirls, up flung him in its sludge and slime ;
And Helen—madman—Helen he would win,
And knows not how or where he should begin.
With Æsculapian aid he may do well.

Manto. I love him who desires th' impossible.

[*CHEIRON is already far off*]

Manto [*to FAUST*]. Onward ! Adventurous ! with joy
proceed !

Enter in boldly ! Down the dark path speed
Whose windings to Persephoneia lead
Beneath Olympus, where with longing eyes
She seeks the smile of interdicted skies.
There did I smuggle Orpheus in of old.
Fare better thou ! Be fortunate ! Be bold !

[*They descend*]

THE UPPER PENEIOS, *as before*

SIRENS, SEISMOS, SPHINXES, GRIFFINS, ANTS, PIGMIES,
DACTYLS, CRANES OF IBYCUS, &c.

Sirens. Dash we into the Peneios,
Swim we with him down in glee,
With the charm of song inviting
All to seek the spreading sea.

There be those who will not listen—
Hapless ! yet with song we call,
To the festival of Ocean,
To the healing waters, all.
Were we there, oh ! with what rapture

Would we raise our lofty pæan ;
 In the wave is every blessing—
 Come with us to the Ægean. [Earthquake

Waves foam back to the spring-head,
 Nor stream, as wont, down the river's bed ;
 The trembling ground starts and recoils,
 And the tainted water boils.
 The gritty bank swells. Moisture soaks
 Through pebbly sand. 'Twill burst !—it smokes !
 Fly hence ! all, all—oh ! fly we hence ;
 This wonder-work of violence
 Bodes good to none—is an offence
 To nature's truth. Fly hence ! fly hence !

Come, joyous noble guests—come ye
 To the glad feast of the sea,
 Where tremulously wavelets shine,
 And swelling lap the white sea-line ;
 Above, below, in double glow,
 In sky and sea smiles Luna calm,
 And sheds in dew her holy balm.
 Yonder is movement !—Freedom ! Life !
 Here, suffering and constraint and strife :
 The throes of agonising earth
 In travail with a monstrous birth.

All that are prudent, fly apace ;
 There is a horror o'er the place.

Seismos [still in the depths of the earth, struggling upward and grumbling ; his voice makes itself heard].

One shove more—one shove will do it ;
 Put but sides and shoulders to it ;
 One tug more and I am through it.
 Thus I tear my way before me,
 Sure to rise o'er all that's o'er me.
 One tug more—another shove now :
 I am in the world above now. [*Appears as described*

Sphinxes. What a shudder ! what a taking
 Earth must be in—trembling, quaking !
 What a going 'gainst the grain !

What a struggle, stress, and strain
 What a rocking, what a wringing !
 Back and forward, swaying, swinging !
 But we'll keep the post we've taken,
 Though all round about be shaken,
 Though all Hell in horror break in.

And behold a vault ascending !
 Wonderful !—'tis he ! 'tis he !
 'Tis the Old Man of the Sea !
 He, who built amid the foam—
 Ocean's bed before him rending—
 Delos, the bright island-home,
 That, when earth denied all other
 Shelter to a wandering mother,
 There her sorrows might have ending.
 He with striving, squeezing, driving,
 Arms extending, broad back bending,
 Very Atlas in his gesture,
 Tears his way through earth's green vesture,
 Carries with him in his travel
 Land and sand, and grit and gravel ;
 All that hitherto was sleeping,
 An unbroken quiet keeping,
 In the river bed at rest,
 Or upon the valley's breast.
 Unfatigued and still defiant,
 See the Caryatid giant !
 Loads of stony scaffolding
 To his sides and shoulders cling.
 From his subterranean prison
 One half of him up hath risen.

Now this is going too far—this must end,
 The Sphinxes their position must defend.

Seis. I've done it all alone—'twas my sole act.
 They now believe—they've seen me in the fact.
 Had I not toiled and tugged with push and pull,
 Would the world have been half so beautiful ?
 The mountain-summit's pure ethereal blue,
 That, as from some enchanted heaven above,
 So smiles upon the raptured painter's view ;

Where would it be, did I not shake and shove ?
 My proud progenitors were looking on—
 Swart Night and Chaos gloried in their son—
 As in my strength, I 'mong the Titans tall,
 With Pelion played and Ossa, as at ball.
 We then were young, and, as young blood inspired,
 We raved and raged. At last, like children tired, '
 In half-malicious mirth the hills we clap
 Upon Parnassus-head—a double cap.
 And there Apollo lingers with his lyre,
 Or listens, as the Muses sing in choir.
 Even Jove's high stretcher I it was heaved out,
 Where his loose thunder-bolts lie strewn about.
 And now, with might and main, with stress and strain,
 I haste head-foremost from the depths again.
 In upper air have worked myself a place,
 And shout out for some animated race
 Of occupants—and doubtless not in vain—
 With joyance and new life to people the new space.

Sphinxes. We might have thought him one of the true
 stock

Of the primitive old Hills—a real Rock—
 Had we not seen the struggles of his birth,
 As the poor upstart wriggled out of earth.
 Now bushy woods come clothing his gaunt sides—
 Stone pressing upon stone his bald pate hides.
 But what care we?—the intruder must retreat—
 The Sphinx will never yield her holy seat.

Grif. Gold in leaflet—gold in glitter—
 Take good care that thieves get none of it ;
 Through the chinks I see it glitter :
 Up ! ye Emmets, make your own of it.

Chorus of Ants. Giants, with shattering
 Strength, have up sped it ;
 Little feet pattering
 Joyously tread it.
 O'er the hill, in and out,
 Tiny things many
 Wander in groups about
 Fissure and cranny.
 Swifter come—swifter come.
 Each chink has in it
 Rich gold in every crumb :

Hasten to win it.
 Loiter and linger not ;
 Hasten to snatch it ;
 The treasure is yours
 If you only can catch it.
 Be earnest—be active—
 Come quick to the fountain
 Of wealth—seize the gold,
 And good-bye to the mountain !

Grif. In with the gold ! In with it !—swell the heap !
 We'll lay our claws upon 't—the best bolts they :
 I warrant safe the treasure that they keep.

Pigmies. We're here—we have our place. We cannot
 say
 How it came to be, but so it is. Ask not
 Whence 'tis we came—here we are, on the spot,
 Here, undeniably. And here and there,
 Where'er there is but room to breathe—where'er
 You find a region meet for joyous life,
 If but a rocky crevice shows itself,
 Up springs your dwarf ; and with the tiny elf
 Be sure ere long to find his tiny wife.
 The active little man, the dwarfess fair,
 You find them here, and there, and everywhere ;
 Diligent little people—pair and pair.
 I do not know if things in the old day
 Went on in Paradise the self-same way ;
 That here they do so happily we know,
 And thank our stars delighted that 'tis so.
 Life, joyous life, everywhere, east and west,
 Springs evermore from Earth's maternal breast.

Dactyls. In one creative night, if Earth
 Hath brought these little things to birth,
 Be sure the same life-giving power
 To lesser folk will lend their hour,
 Who, led by the same law of kind,
 Will everywhere fit partners find.

Eldest of the Pigmies. 'Tis a time of peace, and there-
 fore
 , The true moment to prepare for

War. Then build the smithy ! heap on
 Coals ! and cuirass shape and weapon !
 All our vassals should be arming.
 Come, ye Emmets, hither swarming ;
 Come, in thousands come, and with ye
 Bring the metals for the smithy.
 Dactyls, come with logs and tinder ;
 Come with coals, and coke, and cinder.

General. Stand together in a row,
 Fix the arrow, strain the bow ;
 Aim, secure and steady, take
 At the Herons of the lake.
 Nestling high, how proud they seem !
 And their plumes, how bright they gleam !
 Slay them—lay the proud ones low ;
 Fix the arrow, strain the bow ;
 Stand together, one and all.
 Darts fly thick, and thousands fall.

Wide waving o'er our helmets shall the crest
 Of heron-plumes the victory attest.

Emmets and Dactyls. None now to rescue—all resistance
 vain.

We knead the iron, and *they* forge the chain.
 We are and must be slaves—oppressors *they* ;
 And helpless *we*, but hope a better day,
 And till its dawn, repine, but must obey.

The Cranes of Ibycus. Dying wail ! and the insulting
 Cry of murderers exulting !

Wings in torture agonizing
 Quiver—anguish of the dying !
 Shrieks of pain from earth are rising
 To the heights where we are flying.
 Mingled all in one fell slaughter,
 Reddening with their blood the water !
 Self-conceit, and the ambition
 To affect a high condition,
 And reduce to servile homage
 Brother dwarflings, brought these troubles,
 Led the mannikin land-nobles

To the murder, for their plumage,
Of the Herons. See, it waves there,
O'er the helms of the proud slaves there,
Paunchy, bandy-legged, and crooked.

Come with beaks and talons hooked,
Ye that of our army be,
Heron-wanderers of the sea ;
Come, as Nature bids, with engines
Nature gives, awake to vengeance.
They have slain your near relations.
Root their name from out the nations ;
Give no quarter—show no favour—
Root the rascals out for ever.

[Disperse, croaking in the air

Scene changes to the low ground

MEPHISTOPHELES, LAMÆ, OREAD, HOMUNCULUS

Mephistopheles [alone]. The Northern hags at will I wind
about—

These foreign spirits put one sadly out.
The Blocksberg is firm ground where'er you stray,
And well defined—you cannot lose your way ;
Dame Ilse at her stone is watching still,
And Henry cheers you from his faithful hill ;
The Snorers growl and snarl, and Elend hears
No change to speak of for a thousand years.
Here, who can say if he moves swift or slow,
When the ground boils and bubbles from below ?
On a smooth field you take a quiet stroll,
When—thump !—behind, a mountain will uproll
Its waves : 'tis scarce a mountain—but of height
Enough to screen me from the Sphinxes' sight.
Adown the valley fires are flickering dun,
And groups dance round, that promise lots of fun.
See there a knot of girls that smirking, smiling,
Would seem to welcome me with looks beguiling.
That coyly, now retreating, now advances,
And pours upon me showers of merry glances.
But softly, softly, on them. Fond of sweets,
The traveller must snap up what he meets.

Enter LAMIÆ, who seek to attract MEPHISTOPHELES

Lamiæ. Quicker come—quicker come,
Faster and faster ;
Luring on after us
The old witch-master.

Now for a little while
Loiter and linger ;
Lure him with merry smile ;
Beckon with finger.

Precious the prize to hold :
Happy the winners,
If we can catch the old
Prince of all sinners.

O'er the uneven ground,
Stumping and stumbling ;
O'er the uneven ground,
Tripping and tumbling.

'Twere pleasant to lead
To the path of repentance—
Staggering—swaggering—
Our new acquaintance.

Dragging his game-leg
Leave him behind,
He with his lame leg—
We like the wind.

Meph. [hesitating]. Deceivers that they are ! Oh, fate
accursed !

Every man tricked and tempted like the first !
Yes, all grow older, but none grows more steady.
Poor devil ! wert thou not fooled enough already ?
They're good for nothing. We know how the case is,
With their tight laces and patched painted faces,
Rotten in every limb—peep where you will,
Not a sound spot in them—all rotten ripe.
We know it, see it, feel it, too—and still
What man but dances when the carrions pipe ?

Lam. [*stopping*]. Look sharp—he halts—he hesitates—he lingers.
At him, girls, now, or he'll slip through our fingers.

[*Advancing boldly*]

Meph. Pluck up your courage! Why these twitches
Of doubt? Pluck up and join the revel.
If in the world there were no witches,
The devil a one would be a devil.

Lam. [*gracefully*]. Round this hero let us twine
A sportive ring, till in his eyes
One seems most fair—till love arise,
And that soft heart to one inclines.

Meph. Yes! Could one judge by this uncertain light,
Women, ye seem; of rank, if I see right;
You're handsome—that is, I've nothing to say
To the contrary—you're beauties in your way.

Empusa [*rushing in*]. And I too. Cousins, you must
let me in
As one of you.

Lam. No, if her way she win
To our circle, she'll—she is a spoil-sport quite.

Emp. [*to MIPH.*]. Empusa with the ass's foot
Waits your affectionate salute.
You've but a horse's shank, 'tis true,
Yet, cousin, I acknowledge you.

Meph. Here travelling without any ostentation,
Incognito, and in a foreign nation,
How could one think of meeting a relation?
But the old proverb still holds here and there,
From Hartz to Hellas cousins everywhere.

Emp. You see me as I am—I speak out plain.
I could take many shapes; but I retain
My own to-night—the ass's head does best
To compliment my cousin and my guest.

Meph. Clanship and kin is all in all, I see,
With these folks, but—unpleasant though it be
To meet what seems a compliment with slight—
The ass's head, I must ignore it quite.

Lam. Beast! nasty beast! she comes to scare
Away the lovely and the fair.

The beauty and the love, that shone
Till she came, when she comes is gone.

• *Meph.* And the fair cousins, slender slips and tender.—

Something about them still makes me suspicious.
Behind the roses of their little cheeks,
A man may meet, perhaps, more than he seeks,
And transformations other than he wishes.

Lam. Try us, we're many—try it, if you've pluck :
Here, take your choice of us. I wish you luck.
What means this leer and languish ? You had best
Speak plainly—make up to the prettiest.
You act the lover wretchedly—your air
Of pride amuses and repels the fair.
Do mix with girls with somewhat more of sense,
With somewhat less, too, of magnificence.
Now, girls, let fall your masks, and show the man—
He well deserves such favour—all you can.

Meph. I've made my choice ; come, dearest, love-
liest,
Come to my arms ! A broomstick, I protest !
And this one—horrid face, avaunt !

Lam. Just served you right ; what did you want ?

Meph. The little one, I caught her ; but she shapes
Herself into a lizard and escapes :
As sliding through my hands she presses,
I feel the soft smooth serpent tresses.
I catch the tall one next—the Bacchanal
Is off—the thyrsus staff, I have it all :
Pine-stem and prickly cone, instead
Of the tall girl with the high head.
—Now for the fat one, there a man shall
Regale himself with the substantial :
For such girl what a price would your Easterns give !
I'll try, for the last time, what my luck may do.
The skinny fungus shrivels—falls in two,
Leaving but dust and ashes, as I live !

Lam. Break the chain, and, hand from hand
Disengaging, loose the band.
On the bat's wing sweep and hover !

Lightning glance of dusky pinions !
He with us to play the lover ?
Foreign rascal ! restless rover !
Hunt him out of our dominions.

Witch's son—what strange confusion—
Subject of another empire,

Make him pay for his intrusion !
Scare him, flitter-mouse and vampire !

[*LAMIE vanish*]

Meph. [*shaking himself*]. I've not learned much in my travels, on my word.

Absurd 'tis here, and in the North absurd.
Spectres are cross-grained creatures everywhere,
People and poets stupid here as there.
Here and there the same sensual game is played ;
And here as there illusion lends its aid.
The smile of beauty tempted me to grasp,
And horrors to my shuddering breast I clasp.
Yet would the spell had been a little stronger,
And the illusion lasting somewhat longer !

[*Losing his way among the rocks*]

Where am I ? where's the road ? what tricks they play
tis !

There was a path here ; path—why all is chaos.
'Twas a smooth road on which I hither bore me,
And now see what a mountain stands before me !
Here I go scrambling up and down in vain,
Where shall I find my Sphinx-women again ?
The thing must be a madman's dream outright—
A chain of mountains risen up in one night.
Witch-ride ! why this outdoes our witch-rides all :
They bring their Blocksberg with them to the ball.

Oread [*from the natural rock*]. Climb up here ! reverence
the old

Last rock-stairs of the Pindus range.
By Nature formed, in me behold
A hill that knows no shock of change.
I stood unmoved the same unshattered head,
When over me Pompeius, conquered, fled.
These are but fancy-forms, the sight that mock.
They vanish with the crowing of the cock.
Such fables oftentimes I see uprise,
And sink as suddenly before the eyes.

Meph. Honour to thee, time-honoured Headland ;
crowned

With the high strength of oaks that bower thee round.
The clearest moonshine hath no spear
To pierce the ebon darkness here.

But, 'mong the bushes lo ! a modest light
 Glides near—how strangely everything comes right !—
 It is no other than Homunculus !
 Whither, young fellow, are you going thus ?

Enter HOMUNCULUS

Homun. Hither and thither, up, down, in and out ;
 From place to place still hovering about,
 Impatient the free air of life to breathe,
 Longing to break the glass that is my sheath—
 My chrysalis ; but everywhere I see
 Such sights ! I could not venture yet to be.
 Now for a secret—I am on the track
 Of two Philosophers. Their tongues, clack ! clack !
 Went evermore, and “Nature !”—“Nature !” was
 The word. Keep me not from them. Of the laws
 Of earthly being they must somewhat know :
 Between them I may learn some little ; so
 Pass into life by their experience wiser.

Meph. Shape your own course yourself—trust no adviser.
 Philosopher and phantom chum together,
 And phantast is a fool of the same feather ;
 Spectres in dozens the philosopher,
 For some new creed your credence to obtain,
 Will conjure up, or coin out of his brain.

You never will get sense except you err.

BE, if you must—but into Being rise
 By your own impulse.

Homun. Yet it were not wise
 The good advice chance offers here to miss.

Meph. Away with you ! We shall see more of this.
[*They separate*]

ANAXAGORAS, THALES, HOMUNCULUS.

Anaxagoras [to THALES]. Your mind resist all reason-
 ing. Can there be
 Imagined stronger proof than what we see ?

Thales. The willing waves, each little wind obey ;
 But, meeting with the rough rock, roll away.

Anax. Vapours of Fire have forced this rock through earth.

Tha. In Moisture still the Living has its birth.

Hörmun. [*joins them*]. Let me with both of you walk side by side :

I have for Birth and Being to provide.

Anax. Have you, O Thales ! ever in one night,
Seen a hill rise up out of mud to light ?

Tha. Never was Nature, and her effluent powers
Of Life, referred to days and nights and hours ;
She acts in calm and regulated course—
Knows nothing of this accidental force ;
Even in her works of most sublimity,
As in the least, no violence knows she.

Anax. But here such was. Here fierce Plutonic flame
With Æolus's stormy vapours came,
Burst through the earth's flat crust with monstrous throes,
And in the moment a new hill arose.

Tha. Now, how does this assist your case ? the Hill
Is there—there let it be with my good will :
Time's lost in such dispute that no fruit brings,
But holding patient folks in leading-strings.

Anax. Not long unpeopled is our new hill left,
Its Myrmidons are crowding every cleft—
Pygmies, Emmets, Fingerlings,
—And other active little things.

[*To HOMUNCULUS*]. To royalty in thought hast never
risen ?

Been still sealed up a hermit in your prison ?

If you can learn the arts of government,

I'll make you king——

Hörmun. What says my Thales ?

Tha. Not with my consent.

I would not have my friend accept the crown.

Among the little all one does dwarfs down,

Even as the little placed amid the great

Partakes of greatness. Why deliberate ?

See you the Cranes in blackening cloud ?

Look yonder, where they gather proud,

The insurgent people threatening.

Think you they would spare the king ?

Talons sharp and pointed beak

Wrath upon the small folk wreak.

The Pygmies were no doubt the first
 Offenders, but how short a time
 Brings the vengeance-cloud to burst
 In tempest on their crime !
 The Pygmy folk the Herons slew,
 As round their peaceful lakes they flew,
 Or lay at rest in the calm nest.
 Their arrowy death-shower brings ere long,
 Fearful reprisals for foul wrong—
 A righteous shedding of the blood
 Of the malignant little brood.
 The Cranes—the Cranes are coming, in
 Thousands, to avenge their kin.
 What now avails them shield or spear ?
 What now the Herons' plundered pride ?
 Pygmies and Dactyls shrink in fear,
 And where shall the poor Emmets hide ?
 Their armies waver—shrink—fly—scatter.
 All's over with them—little matter.

Anax. [after a pause, with solemnity]. Gods, that the
 world beneath the earth obeys,
 Erewhile have had my praise ;
 Now to celestial power,
 In this terrific hour,
 My supplicating eyes and voice I raise.

Thou, in thy sky, who still on high
 Dost in deathless youth shine on—
 Thou, with thy threefold name
 And thy aspects three, art one ;
 Ever changing, still the same.
 In this dread calamity,
 Boding the fall of nations—all
 My people—I do call on thee
 Diana, Luna, Hecaté !
 Thou, that to thoughts beyond man's thoughts his breast
 Expandest—thou, that symbol art of rest—
 Calm in thy heavens—serenest—stormiest—
 Be thy dread gulfs of shadow open thrown,
 Thine ancient power, though magic bids not, shown.

Am I too quickly heard, and has my prayer .
 Risen up to heaven, disturbed the regular

Order of Nature ? Large, still larger—near,
 Still nearer, comes the goddess's round throne :
 Glares on the eye a thing of fright and fear,
 Its fire to gloomier red each moment grown.
 Come not more near : or this earth—land and sea—
 Will perish, into atoms crushed by thee.
 'Tis true, then, that the hags of Thessaly
 In daring incantation sang thee down
 From thy high path, and wrung, by fearful charm,
 Through thy torn disk all that hath power to harm ?

While I speak the bright shield darkles,
 Splits, blazes out, and sparkles.
 Rattling, hissing, crash of thunder,
 Tempest.—Will it burst asunder ?
 At the steps of thy throne behold me lie,
 Humbled. 'Twas I brought down the judgment, I——
[Casts himself on his face]

Tha. What a world in all he hath seen and heard !
 I don't well know what has occurred.
 I have not felt like him. No doubt
 This mad hour puts one sadly out.
 And Luna, careless of these shocks,
 In her own place, as usual, rocks.

Homun. Look over to the Pygmy ground.
 The hill-top, that till now was round,
 Is angular. A sudden shock
 Thrilled through me, and I saw a rock
 Fall from the moon :—with little care for
 This questioning of why and wherefore,
 Or friends or foes, or loss or gain,
 It has crashed, and smashed, and slain.
 Yet do I see with admiration,
 This great contrivance of creation,
 Convulsive spasms below that move,
 And agitations from above,
 In one night bringing up and down
 The mountain and the mountain's crown.

Tha. Peace ! 'twas but imagination ;
 Think not of that wretched nation.
 Leave their hill—the nasty thing there,
 Very well you, were not king there.

But come along. The world is all commotion,
 Preparing to receive with honour due,
 The guests this night of wonder summons to
 The solemn festival of joyous Ocean. [Exeunt

The other side of SEISMOS' Hill

MEPHISTOPHELES, DRYAD, PHORKYADS

Meph. [*clambering up*]. Up the steep rock-stairs must
 I make my way,
 And 'mong the old oaks' stiff roots stumbling stray.
 O'er my own Hartz the vapour of the pine
 Breathes pitch, and that is a delight of mine :
 I love it next to brimstone. 'Mongst the Greeks
 The slightest smell of it in vain one seeks.
 Without it, how they light their fires in Hell,
 Or plague the inmates there, I cannot tell,

Dryad. In your own country you perhaps are shrewd !
 But, as a foreigner, unwise and rude.
 Your thoughts should not revert to home-scenes here :
 While in this land, the holy oak revere.

Meph. What one has lost, he deems beyond all price ;
 The customary is man's paradise.
 But what's that clump of three in the weak light ?
 Crowding down in the cave it cowers from sight.

Dryad. The Phorkyads ! Speak to them, if you are
 bold
 Enough for it—if your blood runs not cold.

Meph. Bold ! That I am. I see it with amaze—
 I never saw the like in my born days :
 Worse than the mandrake's writhings. One begins,
 Looking on them, to think the deadly sins
 Less horrible, compared with the enormity
 Of this vile three-coiled tangle of deformity.
 Monsters like these we never would let dwell
 Even on the threshold of our murkiest Hell.
 Here—in the land of beauty, where men pique
 Themselves upon the fame of the antique—
 Here to strike root ! Hark ! Stirring in their cell !
 They scent the stranger near them. They would speak—
 The vampire-bat's thin twittering feeble squeak.

Phorkyads. Sisters, hand me the eye ! Let it look forth
And see who treads our temple without leave.

Meph. Bending in reverential awe I seek
Your threefold benediction to receive.
I am a stranger here ; but you will give
Kind welcome to a distant relative.
Of y^{our} old gods I've seen some of great worth :
Ops, Rhea—bowed before both down to earth.
The Parcæ, of the good old family
Of Chaos's : I know them well—the three—
They're sisters of yours. I have met them all
A few days since, in costume, at a ball :
But never, never have I seen before,
Among the things men honour and adore,
Anything any way resembling you.
Words have I none to say how your charms move
My admiration. What shall I then do ?
In silence think of you—in silence love.

Phor. There's much good sense in what this spirit says.

Meph. I am amazed no poet hymns your praise.
How comes their silence ? How can it have been
No sketch of you in painting I have seen ?
Here were Art's perfect triumph ! and how blest
The sculptor who such charmers fixed in stone,
Not Juno, Venus, Pallas, or the rest !

Phor. Living in depths of night, and all alone,
Thought of the kind never occurred to us.

Meph. How could it ? You, in deep den hidden thus,
Know nobody—by nobody are known.
Had the world seen you, you ere now would grace
With your peculiar beauties some high place,
Where Art and princely Splendour share the throne.
'Tis there your marble block in every street
Steps into life a hero on two feet.
'Tis there——

Phor. Hush ! leave us where we are, resigned !
Wake not ambitious longings in our mind !
Born of the Night, of kin with Night alone ;
Scarce to ourselves and to none other known.

Meph. 'Twill give no trouble : you need take no journey.
It may be done by proctor or attorney.
I'll manage it, As one eye for you three,
And one tooth does, surely it would not be

A contradiction in mythology
 Just to compress the triple essence into
 A smaller compass. Let the three be two :
 Consign to me the figure of the third
 For a little while.

1st Phor. This is not so absurd
 As it sounds. There's something in't. What's your
 reply ?

2nd Phor. I'm for it ; but without the tooth and
 eye.

Meph. In keeping those, you're keeping back the best.
 How can I make a picture of the rest ?

Phor. Nothing more easy. It is but to draw
 An eye down, and projecting from the jaw
 Let glare a front tooth. The profile will strike
 As one in every way extremely like.

Meph. Thanks ; so be it.

Phor. And be it so.

Meph. [*as a PHORKYAD in profile*]. 'Tis done !
 Look I not Chaos's well-beloved son ?

Phor. Daughter ! We're daughters, undeniably.

Meph. Daughter or son—all now will laugh at me.

Phor. New triad this ! What beauty ! We in truth
 Are gainers. An eye more—another tooth !

Meph. I must go hide myself from every eye
 In very hell—the devils to terrify. [*Exit*]

4

ROCKY BAY OF THE ÆGEAN SEA

The Moon staying in the Zenith

SIRENS, NEREIDS, and TRITONS

Sirens [*lying on the cliffs around, piping and singing*].
 In the old time, while Night shuddering heard their daring
 rites malign,
 The Thessalian sorceresses tore from that calm throne of
 thine.
 We, with no unholy magic would disturb thy rest divine.

Rest thee pure in thine own heaven, and from the bow of
thine own night

Look upon the glimmering waters, how they heave and
roll in light.

Oh ! gleam softly on the pageant that ascends in noiseless
motion,

Through the phantom stars up-thronging, to the surface
of the ocean.

Lovely Luna, oh ! smile on us—on thy worshippers'
devotion.

Nereids and Tritons. Sing aloud, in tones more thrill-
ing !

Sounds that, through the deep sea shrilling,

All its peoples may awaken !

We had sunk to lone recesses,

Under gulfs by tempest shaken—

Caves in Ocean's wildernesses !

From the low depths far away

Now uprise we, and obey

And follow the alluring lay !

We to deck ourselves delight.

See these golden bracelets bright ;

Crown, and clasp, and precious stone ;

Chain, and brooch, and jewelled zone !

Treasures—the rich spoils that were

Of the shipwrecked mariner

On your fierce rocks flung away—

Your sweet songs have charmed them hither ;

You ! the demons of our bay.

Sirens. We know, that in the moist sea-waves,

We know, that in the cool sea-caves

Calm live the people of the sea.

A happy. peaceful dream is theirs

Of gliding life. No griefs—no cares.

And such your life, and such are ye.

But, on this day of festival,

Delight it were to us—to all—

To see you in the glorious hour

Wake into life of higher power.

Ner. and Tri. Ere your song had hither brought us,

We had long ago bethought us

Of all•this : and sisters, brothers,

In a moment off fleet we

To return, as proud as others
 Of the ocean-family ;
 Sea-shapes though we be, our claim
 Is, as you full soon shall see,
 To a higher rank and name.
 'Tis but over some small space
 Of the moonlight sea to race.
 We shall show you what we be. [Exeunt

Sirens. They are off to Samothrace,
 With a favouring wind ; but what can they find
 In the realms of the Cabiri ;
 Gods that baffle all enquiry ?
 Gods that high up on the shelves
 Of the rough rocks plant themselves.
 We can make nothing of their constitution—
 Unconscious, self-involved self-evolution.

Oh, move not from thy height,
 Fair Luna ! The soft rays
 Shed round us of thy haze,
 And far away be Day's
 Intrusive world of light.

Sea-shore.—THALES, HOMUNCULUS, NEREUS

Thales [to HOMUNCULUS]. I'd take you now to Nereus.

His cave's here ;

But he's a queer old fellow—an austere
 Odd-tempered being—sour and obstinate.
 Man above everything he seems to hate—
 The human race—he grumbles with such spite
 Against us—men with him are never right.
 Yet, as the future's present to his view ;
 And he, at times, has done good to some few,
 He's in his way respected.

Homun.

At his gate

Let's knock, and test the cross old surly pate
 By what you say of him, there's no great fear
 We spill our flame or crack the glass-case here.

Nereus. Men's voices here ? It makes me savage when
 I think of the absurdities of men.

Formations, that, 'gainst Nature's laws, would fain

Stretch themselves into gods—but all in vain,
 —Doomed in their own damned likeness to remain!
 Were it not for my zeal to serve mankind,
 I might, in blissful quiet, have reclined
 Godlike among the gods for ages past;
 And what good does there come of it at last?
 Things go on all the same, as though I had
 Not said a word about them, good or bad.

Tha. Yet, Ancient of the Sea, with reverence
 All look upon thee. Do not drive us hence.
 The Flamelet here—shaped like a man, no doubt—
 Oh! look on him, who, wandering long about,
 Seeks thy advice, which he will, out and out,
 Follow.

Nereus. Advice! what good is it? Men hear
 Advice, and then it freezes in the ear.
 Though lessoned by the fierce fact o'er and o'er,
 Yet men are ever self-willed as before.
 Ere for another's wife his snares he wove
 Warned I not Paris with a father's love?
 As on the Grecian shore the bold youth stood
 I told him all that I in spirit viewed:
 The thick and stifling smoke, the fire's red breath—
 Roof-trees in flames—beneath them murder, death—
 The doom of Troy, that for a thousand years
 In the recording song hath waked men's fears.
 He mocked the prophet, scorned the oracle,
 Followed his own wild will and Ilion fell—
 A stark, cold, giant corpse. Its pangs had ceased,
 And Pindus' eagles welcomed their rich feast.
 Ulysses, too.—How often was my theme
 Of Circe's wiles and savage Polypheme:
 His own delays, the rashness of his train.
 Forewarned of all—of all forewarned in vain:
 Till, waves relenting, many a peril past,
 The wanderer found a friendly shore at last.

Tha. This to the Wise, this cannot but give pain.
 The Good even, though it may be all in vain,
 Seeks to do good again and yet again.
 Whole hundreds of ingratitude are less
 In his eyes than one grain of thankfulness.
 This is no common case, and your assistance
 May serve us. What this spark wants is existence.

He would enter upon life. This asks a nice
Discretion, and we come for your advice.

Nereus. Hush! Break not in on this delicious trance
Of rare delight! Far other care employs
My spirit now than of man's cares or joys.
It is no hour for you to trouble me.
To-night is held a solemn festival,
Where I have hope to meet my daughters all—
The Dorides—the Graces of the Sea.
Olympus boasts not, nor Achaia bears
Through all her lands, forms lovelier than theirs,
And then the movements of the Nymphs of Ocean!
Theirs is the perfect harmony of motion,
As from the dragons of the wave they spring
To the fleet coursers of the Ocean King.
While flashing in the moonlight billow's play,
Inseparable from the wave seem they.
One with the element that is their home,
You see them rising with the rising foam.
In coloured play of Venus's pearly car
Comes Galatea, of all now that are,
The loveliest and most beautiful by far;
Who, since on Cyprus Venus ceased to smile,
Is worshipped as the goddess of the isle,
For ages now inherits as her own
The temple-city and the chariot-throne.
Away! and in a holy hour like this,
Oh, break not in upon a father's bliss.
No thought of anger now should stir his heart—
No word of censure from his lips should part.
Away to Proteus! Question the magician
As to the spark's proposed change of condition.
You thus may learn what transformations he
Must pass through to be anything—to Be.

[Exit, going towards the sea]

Tha. *[to HOMUNCULUS].* We've not gained much by
this step, I should say.
Catch Proteus! Catch him, and he melts away.
If he stands talk, 'twould seem his only bent
To create wonder and bewilderment.
Still you want counsel and advice. He can
Give it. We'll test him. Come on, little' man.

[Exeunt]

Moonlight Bay.—SIRENS, NEREIDS, and TRITONS

Sirens [on the rocks above]. What far-off gleam moves
 \ o'er the enchanted seas,
 As though white sails flowed hither with the breeze,
 Lustrous with light? Oh, what a change! Are these
 The same wild women of the wave—these the Nereidés?
 Let's clamber down the rocks—perhaps to hear
 Their words—at least to look at them more near.

Ner. and Tri. In our hands we bring a treasure
 That must come to all with pleasure.
 See! reflected from the field
 Of Chelone's giant shield
 Forms of stalwart strength forth spring:
 They are gods! and them we bring
 With us. Sing, in triumph sing!

Sirens. Tiny! if you mark their size:
 • Mighty! if their power you prize.
 They in hours of shipwreck save
 The sinking sailor from the wave.
 Gods! that, in the ancient days,
 Worshipped were with prayer and praise.

Ner. and Tri. The Cabiri we bring hither,
 That the feast may peaceful be.
 Where the Holy Ones are present
 Friendly is the God of Sea.

We must yield to you, Cabiri!
 When a vessel splits in two,
 Then come ye, in power resistless,
 Saviours of the sinking crew.

Ner. and Tri. Three of them with us we brought,
 On the fourth in vain we call;
 He resisted: said he ought,
 As the Governor of all,
 For the common weal take thought.

Sirens. Gods 'gainst gods, with scoff and sneer,
 Bickering, clash with joke and jeer,
 Counsel sage and safe we give,
 With all peacefully to live.
 All, that can do good, revere,
 Them, that can do mischief, fear.

Ner. and Tri. There should be seven of them, sisters and brothers.

Sirens. There are but four here. Where are the three others?

Ner. and Tri. Can't say. Ask for them at Olympus: there

* They say an eighth is. Whence he comes, and where He hath his being, no one yet has stated.

They gladly would have been here, but they waited—
'Twould take some little time—to be created.

No making anything of them. Out of the way
Strange creatures.

Aboriginal gods are they.
Intuitions; High Volitions;
Longings Unrelievable;
Sentimental Pangs of Hunger
For the Inconceivable.

Sirens. Wherever hath been given
A throne of power in heaven—
Sun, moon, or star—where'er
It is, we worship there—
With all of every creed
We pray. It hath its meed.

Ner. and Tri. Oh, what glory ours must be,
Leading this festivity.

Sirens. The Heroes of the ancient days.
Who from this hour forth shall praise?
If, to Greece, the Golden Fleece
They, in happy triumph, brought—
You a greater feat have wrought:
Bringing o'er the joyous main
The Cabiri in your train.

Universal Chorus. If, to Greece, the Golden Fleece
They, in happy triumph, brought—
You a greater feat have wrought:
Bringing o'er the joyous main
The Cabiri in your train.

[NEREIDS and TRITONS pass on

HOMUNCULUS, THALES, PROTEUS

Homunculus. The stupid things are very like old
 'crocks,
 'Gainst which, all covered o'er with grime and dust,
 The antiquarians' hard heads get hard knocks.

Thales. Well, this is what they wish: the medal
 must
 Be, to bear any price, all over rust.

Proteus [invisible]. Here the old fabulist can feed his
 love
 Of wonders with sights well worth thinking of—
 Odd, but as idols better to revere.

Tha. Where art thou, Proteus?

Pro. [*from different places*]. Here I am! Here!
 Here!

Tha. [*to HOMUNCULUS*]. The old buffoon is now at his
 'provoking
 Play of cross purposes. Let's have an end
 Of this. 'Tis out of place and time this joking—
 These tricks on an old traveller. Come, friend!
 I know your voice, and how it sounds at distance
 When you are at my elbow.

Pro. [*as at a distance*]. Fare thee well!

Tha. [*aside to HOMUNCULUS*]. Now flash your light out!
 Now, with its assistance,
 We'll catch him. He's as curious as a fish,
 And lured by light, in whatsoever shape:
 If you but flash out strong he can't escape.

Homun. I'll flash my light out strongly; but must
 take
 Precaution that the glass-case do not break.

Pro. [*in the form of a giant tortoise*]. What's that shines
 out with charm so exquisite?

Tha. [*veiling HOMUNCULUS*]. If you would see, you
 must come nearer it.
 Grudge not the trouble. Come, I do entreat!
 Come, be a man! Come, on a man's two feet
 You want to see a something we have got,
 Which we at will may show you, or may not.
 We dictate terms.

Pro. [*in a noble form*]. Yours still are sophist's
 tricks.

Tha. You still change shapes and on none certain fix.
[Unveils HOMUNCULUS]

Pro. [exhibiting astonishment]. A glittering dwarf, A
show well worth the seeing :

Never knew creature like it was in being.

Tha. He wants your counsel—has come a long distance :

His object is to get into existence.

He is, by what he told me of his birth,

Miraculously come but half to earth ;

A lively spark—has every mental quality ;

But, luckless fellow, 'twas his strange fatality,

An active, naked spirit, all alone—

Without a shred of body, blood, or bone,

Into the world to be at hazard thrown—

His glass is all he has to steady him :

He wants and wishes body, life, and limb.

Pro. True love-child this ! a boy that would, I wís,
Make his appearance ere his mother is
Disposed to welcome him.

Tha. [whispering]. Boy ? Is't so ?

If boy or girl, we really cannot know
Till he puts on life.

Pro. Well ! let time settle that !

We cannot tell what Fortune's driving at.

For better luck may hap. In the wide sea

Is life. There, there must the first process be.

There in the little all begin—then seize

The less, and so grow larger by degrees :

Shift to new forms of being—every past

Foretells a future—the more perfect last !

Homun. The breeze brings fragrance with it ; and the
flow

Of glad green billows, too ! I love it so !

Pro. No doubt you do ; but further on 'twill be
Still pleasanter. And just here, where the land
Ends in a narrow tongue of sparkling strand,
What a delicious breathing from the sea !
Move onward, where the sky seems yet more clear,
And see the gay procession floating near.
Come with me ! Come.

Tha. And me—you must take me.

Homun. A memorable move of spirits three.

TELCHINES OF RHODES *on Hippocamps and Sea-dragons.*
SIRENS, PROTEUS, THALES, HOMUNCULUS

Telchines of Rhodes [holding NEPTUNE'S trident].
The trident, with which the vexed billows' commotion
He calms, we have forged for the Monarch of Ocean.
O'er the heavens if his thick clouds the Thunderer spread,
Poseidon replies to the roll overhead.
To the flare of forked lightnings above will the spray
Of billows below flash terrific as they ;
And the wreck, by the wild wind in agony tossed,
Whirling round in the sea-gulfs is swallowed and lost.

The Sea-god, propitious this festival night,
To us hath entrusted his sceptre of might,
That our path on the waves may be peaceful and bright.

Sirens. Hail ye, each and every one,
Dedicated to the Sun !
Hail, in the mysterious hour
Sacred to his sister's power.
Priests are ye of Helios bright :
This is Luna's festal night.

Telch. Queen of the bow, whose delight in the skies
Are the songs from the earth to thy brother that rise.
To Rhodes, the glad island, an ear dost thou lend,
Where pæans for ever like incense ascend.
How brightly at morning smiles on us the sun—
How brightly at eve, when his day course is run.
Mountains and cities—shore, waters—all here
In his eyes are well pleasing—are cloudless, and clear.
If a wreath of thin vapour the blue heaven obscure :
A beam and a breeze and the island is pure.
Here a hundred bright forms of himself meet his sight—
Now giant, now stripling—all mildness, all might.
Here, in this glorious land, Sculpture began—
Gods and the godlike to image in Man.

Pro. Let them sing and shout away.
These dead works ! Oh ! what are they
To the beam of the bright sun—
To the living ray ?

They shape, they melt, reshape the mass,
 And deem a something done.
 What is at last the fate
 Of these proud gods of brass ?
 Grand stood the image-gods and great :
 An earthquake shook them from their state.
 Melted again, again into new moulds they pass.

Earth's movements, whatsoe'er they be,
 Obstruction are and drudgery.
 Life and the living waves agree.
 To the waters come with me !
 To the Everlasting Sea !
 Proteus-Dolphin carries thee [*changes himself*].
 'Tis done, 'tis done. The triumph's won :
 Thy crowning destiny !
 On my back I carry thee !
 To the Ocean marry thee !

Tha. Go ! Sure way the goal of winning
 Is, "begin with the beginning."
 With him to the waters thou,
 Active life awaits thee now.
 On from forms to new forms ranging,
 Still obeying laws unchanging,
 Till at last you're landed at
 Man. 'Twill take some time to that.

[*PROTEUS has assumed the shape of a dolphin, and
 takes HOMUNCULUS on his back*]

Pro. In the spirit come ! In ocean
 Sport thee—in the free wave wide.
 Thine own joy to every motion
 Still the impulse, still the guide !
 Happy, while in unforeseeing,
 Unreflecting germs alive ;
 But to higher states of being
 In thy yearnings never strive.
 As to Man—once there, you're done up—
 The game's over—all the fun up.

Tha. That's as may happen. Is it nothing, then,
 To be a man distinguished 'mong the men
 Of one's own time ?

Pro. [*to THALES*]. One of your stamp and style
 May no doubt be remembered some short while.

'Mong the pale crowds of spirits yours appears
One noticeable for a thousand years.

SIRENS, THALES, PSYLLI, and MARSII. DORIDES, and
their human lovers. NEREUS, GALATEA, PROTEUS,
HOMUNCULUS. *Universal Chorus*

Sirens [on the rocks]. What a lovely ring of cloudlets
Round the moon, in halo bright !
Doves, whom burning love enkindles—
Radiant dove-wings pure as light—
Birds, that Love enflames—'tis Paphos
Sends them on this festal night.
Now the Auguries are perfect.
Think we now but of delight !

Nereus [stepping to THALES]. Gazing on the cloudlets
fair,

A wanderer by night
Might easily believe they were
Meteors that mocked the sight—
Illusions of the air ;
But we—that spirits are—but we,
That in the spirit all things see,
We know well that such conclusion
Would indeed be a delusion.
Cytherea's Doves they are
That, in flight miraculous,
Follow now my daughter's car.
In the old day it was thus.

Tha. To the view that you suggest
I would yield with no misgiving,
If, within the calm warm nest,
Something holy still were living,
And had there its place of rest.

Psylli and Marsii [on sea-bulls, sea-calves, and rams].
In the rocky caves of Cyprus—
Never by the god of Ocean
Shaken, never by the dread
Spasms of Seismos visited—
We, as in the days of old,
In calm of heart—in joy that hath no voice
To speak its conscious rapture—we rejoice

To guard the Car of Cypris. Our delight
Is, in the murmuring hours of the soft night,
O'er lustrous billows, tremulously heaving,
In whispers low their lovely network weaving,
The pearly chariot from its secret grot
To bear in triumph o'er the glad water ;
And, all unseen of men who know her not,
Still worship Beauty in her loveliest daughter.

We, our gentle task pursuing,
Care not what the world is doing.
Let the Eagle's plumeless pinion,
Or Winged Lion, claim dominion ;
Be it Cross, or be it Crescent,
With alternate victory.
For their battle-field, incessant,
Tears and triumph, what care we ?

While they do their work of ruin,
Devastating, without pity,
Harvest-field, and storming city,
We, our gentle task pursuing,
On her moonlight path serene
With us bring our lovely queen.

Sirens. Gently move, with measured speed,
Round the chariot, ring in ring :
Then flow on, a twofold line,
Side by side, and intertwine
In your windings serpentine !
Nereidés, come ye !
Wild women of the sea,
Built in robustest mould,
Free, vigorous, and bold,
With joyous gambolling.
Tumultuous jubilee
Of Nature's savage glee !
Come, gentle Dorides !
Of forms more delicate,
Whom joy doth not elate,
To Galatea bring
In every sister face
Features, in which we trace
The Mother of the Race—

A more than earthly, more than heavenly grace.
The godlike earnestness of mien—flower of immortal birth—
The winningness, the smile serene, of daughters of the
earth.

Dorides [passing NEREUS, on dolphins]. Lend us, Luna,
light and shadows! Let thy tender radiance all
—We, the while, in shade half-hidden—on these human
blossoms fall.

They are ours! to our fond father we would show each
chosen youth.

[To NEREUS]. They are ours, whom we have rescued from
the tempest's savage tooth.

Them on moss and softest seaweed, warming to new life,
we laid.

Warmed to life, with burning kisses they our tender cares
repaid.

Father! hear our fond entreaty!

Look on them with love and pity!

Nereus. A twofold gain you find in this employment—
Compassion for distress, and self-enjoyment.

Dor. Father! if we find favour in thy sight—
If thou dost sympathize in our delight—

Oh! to these dear ones give

For ever thus to live:

Young heart to heart replying

Love endless, love undying!

Nereus. You've caught them—keep them. Aye! hold
while you can

Your glittering prey, and mould the youths to man.

But as to immortality—

Zeus has the gift of it—not I.

The waves, you rock on, still must move:

Their restlessness knows nothing of

This fancy of abiding love.

Let the dream play its moment and

Forget it; and with gentle hand

Lay the youths tenderly on land.

Dor. Dearest youths! we love you well.

You and we, alas! must sever.

Oh! that love could last for ever!

But the gods the prayer repel!

The Youths. Love us, love us still! More pleasant
•Fortune never can befall

Sailor-lads, to whom the Present,
Evermore is all in all.

[*GALATEA is now seen approaching on her chariot of shell*

Nereus. 'Tis thou, my love.

Gal. What rapture! father, dear!
Linger, ye dolphins! the glance holds me here.

[*The chariot moves on rapidly*

Nereus. Already! what so far away already?
Onward and onward wheeling by, in swift and sparkling eddy?

For the heart's inner beatings, what care they?
Oh! had they ta'en me with them! Yet the sight,
A moment's lustre as it speeds away,
Will make the whole year bright.

Tha. [*exultingly and with solemnity*]. Hail! hail! again
all hail! Life blooms anew.

My spirit is pierced through
By the Beautiful, the True.

In Water all hath had its primal source;
And Water still keeps all things in their course.
Ocean, still round us let thy billows proud
Roll in their strength—still send up mist and cloud.
If the rich rivers thou didst cease to spread—
If floods no more were from thy bounty fed—
And the thin brooklet died in its dry bed—
Where then were mountains—valleys? Where would be
The world itself? Oh! thou dost still, great Sea,
Sustain alone the fresh life of all things.

Echo [*chorus of the collective circles*]. From Thee! from
Thee! that fresh life still outsprings.

Nereus. Rocked on the waves, the gay procession bends
Circle in circle—chain in chain extends.
Such is the ordered festival. No chance
Again of greeting smile, or glance encountering glance.
Back winds the innumerable company;
But Galatea's shell-throne still I see,
Where through the crowd it glitters like a star,
The Loved, 'mong thousands, still is seen afar—
And seen, however far, shines bright and clear:
Is no illusion—still is true—is near.

Homun. In the calm moisture all on which my light
Cast its strong beam is exquisitely fair.

Pro. Life's moisture 'tis that makes the lamplet bright,
And 'twill chime proudly in Life's ambient air.

Nereus. What are we next to see? A something shines
Far, far away among the seaward lines:
Round Galatea's feet flames pant and play—
Now in strong blaze, now languishing away—
As if the throbbings were the throbbings of
The wildly agitated pulse of love.

Tha. It is Homunculus. It must be he.
Proteus, no doubt, has tempted him to sea.
This comes of his ambition; and the end
I venture—'tis no hard task—to portend:
Already do I hear his anguished moan—
He'll dash himself against the sparkling throne.
Aye—as I said—there goes he—spilled about—
Flame flashing thick and fast—all gushing out!

Sirens. What fiery wonder spreading o'er the sea
Clothes it with such surpassing brilliancy?
Billows on billows dash with lightning flash.
Bodies, that through the ocean move to-night,
Move ringed with fire, and in a path of light.
Everywhere fire! Hail, Eros! hail! With thee
The world began: oh! still its ruler be!

Hail! O Sea! All hail, ye bright
Billows fringed with holy light!
Fire, all hail! Hail, Ocean range!
Hail! all hail! Adventure strange!

¹ *All.* Air, with all thy breezy waves,
Hail! Hail, Earth's mysterious caves!
Honour now and evermore
To the Elemental Four.

ACT III

BEFORE THE PALACE OF MENELAUS AT SPARTA

Enter HELENA with a CHORUS of captive Trojan women.
PANTHALIS, Leader of the CHORUS

Helena. I, whom men looked upon with love and wonder,
And whom men so reviled—I, Helena,
Come from the shore where we but now have landed,
Still giddy with the swinging of the waves
That on their high and bristly backs have, through Posei-
don's favour
And the wings of the strong East Wind, home from the
Phrygian plain,
To the land of our fathers borne us—to our own native bay.

Glad of his safe return, on the strand, King Menelaus
Rests yonder, with the bravest and best of his warriors
rejoicing.

And hast thou not a welcome home for thy mistress,
High House, that my father Tyndarus, near the slope,
Built for himself when he from Pallas Hill returned,
And, while in sister love I played with Clytemnestra,
With Castor here, and Pollux, in the growing days of
childhood,

So gloriously adorned above all homes of Sparta?

And hail! all hail! wings of the brazen gate:
Ye that were thrown wide open to all guests!
Never with more inviting hospitality
Than when King Menelaus came a bridegroom—
The one, the chosen one of many princes.
How he shone before my eyes in that early happy time!

Fly open swiftly, wings of the brazen gate!
That the king's mandate, which admits not of
Delay, I, as beseems his wife, may now fulfil.
Fly open to receive me! but shut out
The strange disastrous destiny that still
Storms round me. Since the day I left this place—
Without one grief, without one care to seek—
Cythera's temple, in obedience to

High duties ; but the robber there, the Phrygian
Seized me—have many things occurred that men
Love to spread far and wide ; he, of whom such are told,
But little loves to hear the still-increasing rumour,
Where his own acts he finds spun to a tale of wonder.

Chorus. Disdain not, glorious lady,
The honour that accompanies 'mong men
This thy possession of the highest good.
To thee, alone, of all—to thee alone
This highest favour of the gods was given ;
The fame of beauty—fame above all others.

Before the hero moves the hero's name
And onward doth he march in pride ;
Yet he, the warrior—he, who to no other
Would bend the neck, in spirit bows him down
Before the Beautiful, the All-subduing !

Hel. No more ! I have sailed hither with my husband,
And now by him am to his city sent on ;
But what thought he may have in heart, I guess not.
Come I a wife ? Come I, indeed, a queen ?
Come I a victim, destined to atone
The prince's pangs, the people's sufferings,
So long endured ? And am I hither brought
For sacrifice ? Or, by the event of war
Won, am I but a prisoner ? I divine not.
A fame and fate ambiguous the Immortals
Have doomed for me, unenviable attendants
Of Beauty, ever with me—aye, for ever ;
Even here—upon this threshold—here beside me
Gloomily stands the evil-boding presence.
Ere yet we left the hollow ship but seldom did my husband
Look on me, and he spake no cheery word.
Opposite me he sate, and seemed the while
Gloomily meditating something evil ;
But scarcely had the beaks of the first ships,
Within the curving shore of the Eurotas
Steered safely, greeted land, when thus spake he—
Seemed it that with his voice the inspiring God
Spake :—" Here, my warriors, each in his due order,
Move, disembarking : I will muster them,
Rank after rank, drawn up on the sea strand.

But go thou on! Go up along the bank
 Of the holy river, where Eurotas flows
 Through his fertile valley. Turn thy swift steeds up,
 Over the emerald depths of the moist meadow,
 Till thou hast reached the high plain and the buildings
 Of Lacedæmon, late a rich wide field
 Hemmed in by solitary hills severe.
 Enter the palace there high turreted;
 Gather the maids, whom I left there at parting,
 Together; and the sage old stewardess,
 Let her show thee the rich collected treasures,
 Thy father's gathering, and those, too, that I,
 In peace and war ever increasing them,
 Have piled together. All in order due
 Wilt thou find standing—for it is the right
 Undoubted of the prince, that, to his home returning,
 He finds all things in their place as he hath left them:
 For of himself the slave hath power to alter nothing."

Chor. With the rich treasures now, that, day by day,
 And year by year, have added to—oh feast
 Thine eyes and breast.

The chainlet's graceful charm,
 The diadem that the high brow adorns,
 There are they resting proud—they deemed themselves
 Even in themselves a something.

Step thou on
 Into the treasure chamber. Challenge them!
 Up start they. They in pride
 Array them for the battle.
 'Tis a delight to me to see the contest—
 Beauty 'gainst gold and pearls and gems of price.

Hel. So spake my lord—this farther mandate followed:
 "When thou hast seen through all things in their
 order,

Then take as many tripods as thou deemest
 Needful—as many vessels as the priest
 Requires when perfecting the holy rite—
 Caldrons and bowls and flat round altar-plates—
 The purest water, from the holy fount,
 Be in high pitchers;—a short space apart
 Have dry wood ready, quick to catch the flame;—
 And let not a well-sharpened knife be wanting!
 All else I leave it to thy sole concern."

So spake he, urging me to part ; but nothing
Of living breath doth the orderer of the rite
Designate to be slain in dedication
Of solemn sacrifice to the Olympians.
I know not what to think—and—think I will not—
My present duty is now my sole concern.
Let all be as the high Gods order it,
Who what they have decreed accomplish ever :
Men may esteem it good—men may esteem it
Evil—but good or evil man must bear.
Often ere now the sacrificing priest
Hath raised the heavy axe, devoting it
To the neck of the beast bent down to earth ;
And the blow could not perfect, for there came
Preventing foe, or intervening god.

Chor. What is to be thou never canst think out.
Oh ! queen, with cheery spirit move thou on !
To mortals good and evil
Will unexpected come.

Even if predicted, we do not believe.
Troy was on fire already ; we, already
Saw death before our eyes—a death of shame—
And yet are we not here,
Associated with thee,
Thy joyous hand-maidens ?
And yet we see the dazzling sun of heaven ;
We see the brightest glory of the earth.
Thee, gracious lady ! Happy ! happy we !

Hel. Be what may be ! Me doth it now beseem,
Whate'er may interpose of evil or of good.
To ascend at once and move into the palace—
The royal house that many a year unseen,
Longed for, deemed lost for ever, here stands out
Before my eyes, I know not how. My feet
Bear me not now with the same cheery bound
Up the high steps o'er which I sprang in childhood.

Chor. Cast, oh, my sisters, mournful captives, cast
All mourning far away !
Rejoice we in the fortune of our mistress !
Rejoice we in the joy of Helena !
Who to the hearth of her ancestral home
Returning late, but with a foot more firm

Even for that late return,
Approaches in her joy.

Praise ye the holy ones,
The joyous, who bring back in happiness
Exiles to their own homestead. Praise the Gods,
The holy ones! the glad home-bringing Gods!
The freed one, he whose fetters are unbound,
Over the roughest flies as if with wings;
While the pale captive, with vain longings filled,
Stretching his arms beyond the battlement,
Within his prison pines.

But her in a far-off land a god did seize,
And, back from Ilion's ruins,
And hither to the old ancestral house,
Hath borne and brought, after long joys and sorrows,
Sorrow and joy unspeakable,
To live her youth again.

Panthalis [as *Chorus-leader*]. Leave now the joy-sur-
rounded path of song.

Look towards the portal's wings. What see I there,
Sisters? Is't not the queen returning hither,
Hurrying with eager agitated steps?
What is it, mighty queen, what can it be,
In the halls of thine own house, instead of the greeting
Of thine own, hath come to wound and shatter thee thus?
Thou dost not, canst not hide it. On thy brow
Is undisguised abhorrence—noble anger—
That with surprise is struggling unsubdued.

Hel. Jove's daughter common fear doth not bescem.
Light terrors pass her by, and touch her not.
But a horror, from the bosom of old Night
And primal Chaos, rising many-shaped,
Like lurid clouds from the fire-caverned mountain
Up-whirling, shatters even the hero's breast.
The Stygian powers to-day so gloomily
Have marked my entrance to the palace, that
Even from the old, familiar, often-trod,
Long-wished-for threshold, I almost desire
To part for ever, as though I were but
A chance guest—as though this were not my home.
I have shrunk back from them thus far. I am now

In the light ; and farther, Powers, whate'er you be,
Ye shall not drive me. I will think upon
Some ritual form, that, purified, the hearth
Glowing may greet the lady as the lord !

Chorus-leader. Oh, noble lady ! make known to thy
servants,

Devotedly who love thee, what hath happened.

Hel. What I saw, ye with your own eyes shall see,
If ancient Night belike have not drunk back again
Instantly the dire shape, her own foul work,
Into her bosom's monster-teeming depths.
Yet it is meet I tell it you in words.

As I paced the gloom of the inner court of the palace
With staid religious steps, in my thoughts weighing
That which concerned me first, I felt amazement
At the strange silence and the emptiness
Of the passages. No sound of rapid step
Came to my ear—no stir of busy haste
Meeting my eye—and no attendant maid
Came forward as of old—no stewardess—
Such as were wont to welcome every stranger.
But as I reached the bosom of the hearth,
There saw I cowering o'er the last faint heat
Of embers dying, muffled up, the strange
Shape of what seemed a woman. Gaunt was she,
And huge. She was not, so it seemed, asleep ;
But rather was as one lost in her own deep thoughts.
I, as her mistress, called her up to work,
Believing that she was the stewardess
My husband's foresight had, when he left home,
Placed here. Still muffled doth she sit and stirs not.
I chide her. Then, at length, uprears she her right arm,
As though from hearth and hall to motion me away.
I turn in wrath from her, and hasten on
Toward the high steps leading where the Thalamos
Rises adorned, and the near treasure-room.
Swift from the ground upstarts that marvellous shape—
Straight in my way, with gesture of command,
Stands—shows itself in its full meagre vastness,
With hollow troubled eyeballs, blood-begrimed.
Dire spectre, eye and mind alike distracting !
I speak but to the winds. Words, all in vain,
Seek to build up and to embody shapes.

But see her!—and she ventures to the light!—
Here, till our lord and king returns, we rule.
Such drear abortions, Phœbus, friend of Beauty,
Drives to their night-caves down, or he subdues.

[PHORKYAS steps out on the threshold between the
door-posts

Chor. Much have I lived through, much have I suffered,
Though the ringlet still youthfully rolls round my temples;
Much have I seen, and have suffered of sorrow,
Affliction of war—that last sad night of Ilion,
When it fell.

Through the cloud and the whirl, and the dust and the
tumult,

And the loud din of warriors crushing down warriors,
Over all heard I the gods shouting fearfully—
Heard I the brassy-tongued accents of Eris
From the battle-field sound, as move on the Immortals,
Nearer each moment, and evermore nearer
To the walls of the city devoted to ruin.

They yet were standing, the proud walls were standing,
Of Ilion; but red flames already were running
Hither and thither, from roof-tree to roof-tree,
Ever extending; and ever the sound of
The restless flames rolling seemed as of tempest,
In the gloom of black night, breaking over the city.

And as I fled, I saw through mist and fire,
And light of flames that started up in tongues,
The approach of gods. All in their wrath they moved—
Shapes wondrous—onward striding—giant forms
Seen through the deepening gloom of fire-illumined vapour.

Saw I them? Or did the anguish of my spirit
Shape the wild phantomry? This never can I say;
But that I now with my body's eyes behold
The frightful shape before me I know well.
With my hands I could grasp it, did not Fear,
Did not Horror hold me back.

Tell me! tell me!

Which art thou of Phorky's daughters?
For of that kin and kind no doubt thou art;
One of the dames belike born with grey hairs—

With one eye and one tooth,
Which they in turns employ :
One of the Graiæ showing thy face here.
Dost venture—horror that thou art—dost venture
Into the presence of Beauty ? Dost venture
To show thyself here to the piercing eye
Of Phœbus ? But come on—yes ! come on boldly—
For he doth never look upon the Hideous :
His holy eye hath never yet seen shadow.

But we ! alas !—mortals ! but we must bear
—Compelled by our unhappy fate—
The anguish of such sight,
The misery unspeakable,
This loathsome offal, this unblessed thing,
Wakes up in hearts that feel the love of beauty.

But hear thou—as, in wanton insolence,
Thou wilt encounter us—hear thou our curse !
Hear imprecation ! hear abuse, abhorrence,
And threats, and words of loathing from the lips
Of the beautiful—the happy—from the lips
Of us, whom gods have formed !

Phorkyas. Old is the word, but high and true its import,
That Modesty and Beauty never hand in hand
Together walk over the earth's green path.
Deep in the hearts of both inveterate hate
Dwells rooted, so that whensoever they meet
Each turns her back upon her adversary—
Each moves on faster. Modesty with downcast
Heart, Beauty waxing bold and insolent,
Till Orcus' hollow night at last hath caught her—
If long ere that Age hath not tamed her down.
But you, ye haughty wantons—refuse of foreign lands—
To me ye seem a cloud of clamorous cranes,
From overhead that send down their shrill croak.
The traveller, unconcerned, upon his walk
Hears and looks up ; but they pursue their way—
He his—and thus it is with you and me.

Who are ye, then, that thus ye dare rave round
The palace, Mænad-like, as though ye were
Drunk ? Who, then, are ye, that ye howl against
The stewardess, as crowds of dogs the moon ?

Think ye I know you not and of what kind
 Ye are?—ye war-begotten, battle-nursed, young fry
 —Lascivious brood, seducers and seduced—
 Enervating alike the warrior's
 And the burgher's strength. See there, the swarm of you
 Seems to me like a locust-cloud's descent,
 Covering the harvest-field in its green promise.
 Ye wasters of the industry of others,
 Whose luxury ruins the hard-earning man—
 Captives of war—bought, sold, and bought again—
 Ware, worse than worthless, auctioned off, flung away.

Hel. Who, in the lady's presence, chides her maidens,
 O'ersteps the clear rights of domestic life.
 It only for the mistress is to give
 Reward of praise; and hers it is to punish.
 I with the duteous service was pleased well
 Which they to me rendered when the proud strength
 Of Ilium was besieged, and fell, and sank.
 Nor less when came the wretched wandering time
 Of our voyaging—a time, when each on self thinks only.
 A cheerful group!—here, too, will serve me cheerfully.
 “Not what the slave,” we ask; “but how he serves.”

Be silent, then, nor snarl thou thus at them.
 Hast hitherto kept duly the king's house,
 Supplying the mistress's place? Be that thy praise!
 The Mistress now is here. Step thou then back,
 Lest chastisement, not praise, be thy just meed.

Phor. The inmates and dependants of a house
 To menace is no unimportant right;
 And the heaven-favoured ruler's noble consort
 By many a year of prudent conduct earns it.
 Therefore, as undisputed thou dost tread
 Again our queen and mistress the old ground—
 Seize on the long-abandoned reins of empire.
 Possess thou the king's treasure, and us, too,
 As yours,—and me, in my old age, protect
 From this young fry, that near thee, swan of beauty,
 Seem coarsely-feathered, clattering cackling geese.

Chorus-leader. How hideous in the neighbourhood of
 Beauty,
 More than deformed doth seem Deformity.

Phor. How more than foolish, seen near Wisdom and
 Prudent Discretion, Foolishness appears.

[*The CHORUS reply, each member of the CHORUS singly stepping forward as she speaks*

Choretid First. Tell of thy father Erebus; tell of thy mother Night.

Phor. Tell thou of Scylla—speak of thy sister blood-hound whelp.

Choretid Second. From the same root with thee sprung many a monster.

Phor. Away to Orcus—there thy kinsfolk search out.

Choretid Third. All who dwell yonder are too young for thee.

Phor. Away with thee—go, court there old Tiresias.

Choretid Fourth. Orion's nurse was thy great-grand-daughter.

Phor. Harpies, in filth, did feed and fatten thee.

Choretid Fifth. How wert thou fed, to have preserved such leanness?

Phor. 'Twas not with blood, for which thou dost so thirst.

Choretid Sixth. For corpses thou dost hunger—foul corpse thou.

Phor. A vampire tooth glares from thy insolent jaws.

Leader of Chorus. Thine will I close, by telling who thou art.

Phor. Name but thyself, then were the riddle read.

Hel. Not angry, but in grief, step I between you,
 Forbidding this wild tempest of conflicting words:
 For to the ruler nothing can occur
 Worse, or attended with more disrepute,
 Than hatred growing up among his faithful servants.
 The echo of his mandates now no longer
 Returns in harmony of instant act
 Responsive; but, self-willed, reels here and there.
 Perplexed, he knows not what to make of it:
 Chides every one and everything in vain.
 Not this alone; but your unmannered bickering
 Hath called up shapes unhallowed—fearful imagery—
 That still are pressing round me, till I am
 Myself, despite of this paternal land, torn down,
 As 'twere, from it to Orcus. Is it memory,
 Or fancy is it, that thus seizes me?
 Was I all that? Am I it? Am I yet
 To be it? Dreadful dream! Dream is it?—dream!

Am I then—I—the fearful fatal form,
 The horror, that hath desolated cities?
 The maidens shudder. Thou, whose age hath calmed thee
 down,

Alone art self-possessed. Speak thou! say how things are.

Phor. Who thinks on years of unmixed happiness,
 To him, at last, the gods' best gifts seem dreams. ♪
 Favoured beyond all bounds! above all measure!
 Thou, in the flow of years, sawest none but lovers—
 Bold men, whose burning passions stopped at nothing.
 There was Theseus! He was first—he lost no time—
 A greedy wooer—he snapped thee up, a young thing:
 He, strong as Hercules—a princely well-built man.

Hel. He bore me off—a slender ten-years' roe—to Attica.
 There the fortress of Aphidnus safely walled me round.

Phor. Castor and Pollux freed you, and you were then
 wooed

By a whole army of illustrious worthies.

Hel. Yet, will I own, of all those chiefs, Patroclus,
 Pelides' image, won my silent favour.

Phor. Yet thee thy father's prudent choice gave to
 King Menelaus.

Both robber on the seas was he, and his own home's bold
 defender.

Hel. To him he gave his daughter, and to him he gave
 his kingdom;

And from our union sprang Hermione.

Phor. King Menelaus warred far off at Crete. To thee,
 left lonely,

An all too lovely guest made his appearance.

Hel. Why call back now that sad half-widowhood?
 What dread misfortunes have grown out of it!

Phor. To me that voyage, too, a free-born Cretan,
 brought

Weary captivity—long servitude.

Hel. He placed thee here as stewardess of the palace,
 Confiding to thy care household and hard-won treasure.

Phor. All which you left for Ilion's tower-girt city,
 And love's own raptures inexhaustible.

Hel. Speak not of raptures! Woe it was unending,
 Evermore showered down on my breast and head.

Phor. Yet, say they, you appeared a twofold image—
 In Ilion seen, and seen, at the same time, in Egypt.

Hel. Oh, make not wholly mad this desolate madness.
Even now what I now am I do not know.

Phor. They say from the void realm of shades, Achilles,
Burning in deathless love, did make thee his—
He who erewhile had loved—but Fate denied.

Hel. A vision with a vision I was wedded :
A shadowy phantom he, a gleamy apparition.
It was a dream—only a dream—and so the very words say.
I faint—I fall away from life—am fading into phantom.
[Sinks into the arms of the SEMICHORUS]

Chor. Silence thee ! Silence thee !
Evil-eyed, evil-tongued !
Oh !—the savage lips, from which their one tooth glares !
Oh ! the foul breath from that abominable gulf !

Malignity, acting benevolence—
The fierce wolf under the sheep's woolly fleece—
To me is more fearful by far
Than the jaws of the three-headed hound.
We stand in dread expectancy
Of when—how—where—the rabid fury, that lurks
In act to spring upon us, will leap forth ?

Now, instead of kindly word,
Bringing balm of consolation,
Lethe's sweet dews of oblivion,
Thou dost, from the whole hoarded records of
The times gone by, stir only evil up,
Darkening at once the brightness of the present
And the mild glimmering hope-light of the future.
Be silent ! Be silent !
That the soul of the queen,
Ready to fly,
May yet remain—may yet not cease to hold
That form of forms—the loveliest that the sun
Of earth hath ever seen.

[HELENA recovers and resumes her place in the midst]

Phor. From the flying clouds, oh ! step forth, lofty sun
of this bright day.
Thee, even veiled, we saw with rapture. Dazzling splen-
• dour now is thine !

Joyous earth smiles out to meet thee, and thy smile is over all.

He they rail against as hideous, yet I know the beautiful.

Hel. Fainting, step I from the blank void—from the whirl that round me pressed.

I am weak, and sick, and weary—would sink back into repose.

Yet to queens—yet to all living—it is a beseeeming thing
With calm heart to meet the future—with calm heart
whate'er may be.

Phor. Now you stand in your full greatness—in your beauty you stand there.

In your glance I read a mandate. Speak the mandate, lady, speak!

Hel. The delay, that your bold quarrel caused me, hasten to repair.

Haste the sacrifice to perfect, as the king directed me.

Phor. All's within—all's ready: dishes—tripod—keen axe, sharpened well—

Water for lustration—incense. Designate the victim thou.

Hel. It the king hath not appointed.

Phor. Told thee not? Oh! sad, sad word!

Hel. What's the sadness that comes o'er thee?

Phor. Queen, 'tis thou—'tis thou art meant.

Hel. I?—

Phor. And these—

Chor. Oh woe! Oh sorrow!

Phor. Thou wilt fall beneath the axe,

Hel. Fearful, yet I felt it would be!

Phor. Unavoidable it seems.

Chor. Ah! and we! What is to happen?

Phor. She will die a noble death;

But within there, on the high beam that supports the gable-roof,

Like the thrushes in a bird-snare, you in a long row will flutter.

[*HELENA and CHORUS stand astonished and terrified in expressive, well-arranged groups*

Phor. Phantoms! forms numbed to very stone by terror,

Aghast at the thought of parting from the daylight!

Yet in the day you have no natural right.

'Tis the same case with men—they, too, are phantoms:—

Little love they to quit the holy sunlight.
Yet the end comes no force or prayer can stay :
All know it—few contemplate it with pleasure.
Enough—all's over with you.

Quick to work !

*[Claps her hands, on this appear at the door masked
dwarf figures, who actively perform everything as
she directs*

Hither, swarth goblinry—squab, sooty scrubs—
Roll yourselves round ! Here's the work that you love—
Misery and mischief to your heart's content.
Trundle the altar out with the golden horns—
Over the silver rim let shine the hatchet.
Fill the water-crocks, to wash away the soil
Of the black polluting blood. Spread o'er the dust
The splendid carpet, that the victim may
Kneel down in royal wise : then wrapt in it—
The 'head, no doubt, clipped off—be, as besecms
Her rank, borne gracefully to honoured burial.

Leader of Chorus. Apart the Queen stands, thinking, as
'twould seem.

The maidens, like the mown grass of the meadow,
Droop.

[To PHORKYAS]. It would seem my sacred duty, then,
As far the eldest here, to have a word with thee,
Whose birth I deem coeval with the world.
You are experienced—wise, and seem to us
Benevolently disposed, although this giddy,
Unthinking, petulant group have scoffed at you.
Tell what you know of any possible rescue.

Phor. 'Tis easily told. It on the Queen alone
Depends to save herself and you, her people.
She must decide—must decide instantly.

Chor. Worthiest of the Parcae sisters—of the Sibyls
wisest thou—
Hold in sheath the golden scissors—tell us, tell of life and
daylight ;
For we feel already waving—dangling—swinging, back and
forward,
Joylessly, the little limbs, that, in the dance, with cheerful
movement
Love to play, and then to rest them softly on a lover's
bosom.

Hel. They ! Let them quail and tremble ! Pain I suffer, not terror :

Yet, if you know of rescue, with thanks be it received.
To the sagacious, who, far on, and wide
Around them, look, the Impossible shows itself
Possible. Speak on. Tell us what you know ?

Chor. Speak and tell—and tell us quickly—how we may escape the savage

Odious noose, that we feel threatening, like a most unwelcome necklace,

To wind round our throats. We feel it—wretched victims—clinging, clasping,

Choking utterance, nay, life-breath—if thou dost not, Parent Rhea—

Thou, most venerable mother of all gods, have mercy on us.

Phor. Have ye patience, then, to listen in silence to The details of my plan ? There are long stories to tell.

Chor. Patience enough—for while we listen we live.

Phor. To him who tarrying at home guards well a noble treasure,

And saves by daily care the walls of his house from decay,

Secures the roof against the pressure of rain,

To him will it go well through the long days of his life ;

But who o'er-strides lightly the holy bounds

Of his threshold with a rash and hasty foot,

On his return, perhaps, finds the old place—

But everything there changed, if not destroyed.

Hel. Wherefore these out-worn proverbs ? What thou wouldst tell,

Tell on. Stir not up matter that offends.

Phor. 'Tis part of my tale—true history—no offence.

His pirate barque did Menelaus steer

From bay to bay. The main shore and the islands

He ravaged, and swept off all he could plunder,

Returning with the spoils you have seen there piled within.

Ten weary years he wore out before Ilion ;

In the voyage home how many more I know not.

How stands it here, meanwhile, with the high house

Of Tyndarus ? How stands it with the realm around ?

Hel. Are foul words, then, so wound into your nature That you cannot move your lips without abuse ?

Phor. For years neglected stood the valley-ridge That north of Sparta rears its terraces,

Backed by Taygetus. There doth the Eurotas
Roll down a merry brook—thence through our glen,
Flows widening among reeds, and rears your swans.
There, unobserved, in that same mountain valley
Nestled a bold race. From Cimmerian night
Forth pressing, they have built them up a fastness—
A hold impregnable—whence they descend
To harass land and people as they please.

Hel. Could they effect this? It would seem impossible.

Phor. They had time enough—perhaps full twenty years.

Hel. Does one bear rule? Are the robbers many?—a gang?

Phor. They are not robbers, and one man does rule.
I speak no foul words of him, though he did
Visit me here. He might have taken everything;
But he was satisfied with a few free gifts.
Such was the word—he did not call it tribute.

Hel. What kind of looking man?

Phor. By no means ill.

He pleases me—a merry fearless man,
Well built; has few among the Greeks his equals
In understanding. We with foul tongues brand
The people as barbarians, but I fancy
Not one of them as savage as at Ilion
Was many a hero feeding on man's flesh.
His honour I can speak to confidently;
I have trusted my own person in his hands.
And his castle—that you should see with your own eyes—
'Tis quite another thing than the coarse masonry
Of the rude walls that your fathers all confusedly
Together rolled—Cyclopean—aye, like the Cyclops were
they,

Heaping rough stones on rough stones as they came.
Far other the structure there, for all with them
Is fixed by rule and line and measurement.
Look at it from without—it strives to heaven—
Straight, well adjusted, smooth as a steel mirror.
—Climb up that wall? The very thought slides down.
Within, a far-extending court, and round it
Buildings of every kind, for every use.
Pillar, pilaster, archlet, arch are there;
Balconies, galleries looking out and in,
And scutcheons.

Chor. What are scutcheons ?

Phor. Ajax bore in shield
A coiled snake—you yourselves remember to have seen it.
The Seven, too, before Thebes bore figured emblems
Each on his shield. On one was the moon and the stars
And the field of the heavens in the night. And on
another
Was a goddess. One shield had a chief with scaling-
ladder.
Some had swords,—torches, too ; and all with which the
violence
Of bold besiegers shaves down mighty cities.

And such devices bear the hero band I speak of ;
Theirs have, from their original ancestors,
Come down with all variety of colour.

There you see lions—eagle's claw and beak—
Buffalo horns—a wing—roses—a peacock's tail—
And stripes—gold, black and silver, blue and red.

These and the like hang in their halls—proud banners, row
on row—

In boundless halls, that seem wide as the world,
There were a place for your dances !

Chor. Are there dancers there ?

Phor. The best in the world. Crowds of boys, golden-
haired

And fresh-complexioned : and they so breathe youth !
Paris alone so breathed, when he too near the Queen
Came——

Hel. You forget your character. Let us hear
What you drive at. Say the last word ; end your tale at
once.

Phor. You 'tis that have to say the last word here, and
end it.

Say but distinctly “ Yes,” and I surround you
With that castle.

Chor. Oh ! speak, speak the little word,
And rescue thus thyself and us alike.

Hel. How ? Can I fear, then, that King Menelaus
Could so change ?—do such savage injury to me ?

Phor. Have you forgotten your Deiphobus,

The brother of your Paris, slain in battle—
How the king maimed and mutilated him ?
—You cannot, sure, forget Deiphobus,
With whom you did so struggle, an obstinate widow ;
But the happy man had his own way at last,
And for it, too, got slit up nose and ears,
And other gashes horrible to look at.

Hel. To him he did it—on my account he did it.

Phor. And now, on his account, to you he'll do it.
Beauty is never held in partnership :
He, who hath once enjoyed it all his own,
Sooner destroys than shares it with another.

[Trumpets in the distance]

Hark ! 'twas the trump's shrill thrill. How it tears
through
Ear-drum, heart, all within us ! Thus does Jealousy
Fasten her fangs into the breast of the man
Who, having once possessed, forgets not ever
What he hath had—hath lost—and now no more pos-
sesses.

Chor. Hear you not the horn resounding ? See you
not the flash of weapons ?

Phor. Welcome is my king and master : my account I
fain would render.

Chor. But—but we——

Phor. You know all plainly—her death, here,
and yours, within.

There is no help for it—no—none.

Hel. I have thought out what I may venture on.
Thou art a dæmon of cross purposes—
This I do feel. I fear that good to evil
Thou dost invert ; but I will follow thee
On to the castle. This say I ; but what more
May come, after this step, and in the Queen's
Deep heart dwell hidden, unrevealed must it
To all remain. On ! Old One, lead the way.

Chor. How gladly go we hence, with hastening
foot !

Behind us Death—before us once again
Unscaleable walls of a
Towering fortress.

Oh ! that the fortress may give shelter such

As Ilion's tower, that yielded but at last
To despicable craft.

*[Mists spread around, hide the background, and also
the front scene gradually*

How ? but how ?

Sisters, look round !

Was it not cheerful daylight ?

Shreds of vapour waver rising

Up from Eurotas, from the holy river.

Already vanished hath the lovely bank ;

The fringed bank already, with its reeds,

Hath vanished from the eye.

And the free swans—the proud, free, graceful swans,

That, gliding soft, delightedly swim down

Together in their joy,

See I, alas ! no more.

But yet, but yet,

Toning hear I them,

Toning far off—a hoarse tone—

Announcing death, men say.

Ah ! that to us it may not also be,

Instead of promised rescue,

Augury but of ruin,

—To us, to us, the swanlike,

With white long necks, beautiful as the

Ruin to us, and her, our Queen and A

The Daughter of the Swan !

Woe ! Woe to us ! Woe ! woe !

And the mist still thickens. Round us

Everything already hidden.

Now we see not one another.

What is doing ?—Move we onward ?

Or do we with light steps hover

O'er the ground, still unadvancing ?

—Saw you nothing ? Floats not Hermes

Yonder ? Gleamed there not the waving

—Gleams it not ? Is it illusion ?—

Of his golden wand of empire,

Bidding us back to the joyless

Gloomy land of shapes unbodied,

O'er-filled, ever-empty Hades.

Suddenly the darkness deepens—deepens, though the fog
hath vanished,
Darkness as of brown walls round us, that admit no gleam
of sunshine.
Walls, indeed, they are, that front us, freedom to the eye
forbidding.
Court-yard is it? Deep trench is it? Be it this or be it
th' other,
Equally is it a horror. Sisters, we, alas! are captives;
Here as there, and now as ever,
Destined still to be but captives!

*The fog has cleared off, and the inner court of the Castle is
seen, surrounded with rich fantastic buildings of the
Middle Ages*

Chorus-leader. Impatient ever and foolish!—type of
woman,
Dependent on the moment-play of the wild winds!
Good or ill fortune still incapable
Of meeting with serenity.
Still warring are you each with other. One
Says this, and what she says is straight gainsaid.
Laughing or wailing, the self-same tone 'tis always,
—Sorrow or joy. Be silent and attend ye!
Listen to what our noble Queen for herself,
And us—having weighed all in thought—determines.

Hel. Where art thou, Pythonissa? Come, be thy name
what it may,
Come thou from out the vaults of this dismal castle.
Or if, perchance, thou art going to tell of my arrival
To this wondrous hero-lord, and secure me meet reception,
Receive my thanks and lead me at once to him.
I wish my wanderings at an end. Repose is all I long
for.

Chorus-leader. In vain lookest thou, O Queen! on all
sides, round thee here.
Vanished is that foul shape. She hath, perhaps, remained
Behind in the fog, from the bosom of which hither
We have, I know not how, come swiftly, without step;
Or it may well be that she still is wandering,
Having lost herself in the labyrinthine windings
Of this strange castle made of many castles,

While she seeks the master to announce your coming,
And to demand for you princely reception.

But yonder see, above, bustle of preparation !
At galleries, at windows, and in portals,
Hither and thither hurrying crowds of servants.
This speaks a welcome here of gracious courtesy,
Princely reception as of honoured guest.

Chor. How my heart flows forth to meet them ! Look !
only look

At the long line of beautiful youths streaming hitherward,
Timing their leisurely movements to melody.
Onward, still on, flows the ordered procession.
Oh, what composure ! what grace ! and what dignity !
Youths, but in bloom and in beauty of boyhood.
Bright apparition ! But who hath evoked it ?
Whose is the mandate their ranks are obeying ?
Whose is the spirit unseen that hath moulded them ?
With what delight and what wonder I look on them !
What is it wins me to love them ?—thus love them ?
Is it their beauty ? their courteous demeanour ?
Or the ringlets that roll round the dazzling white forehead ?
Or the dear little cheeks, with blush red as the peach's,
And, soft as the peach's, the tender down shading them ?
Fain would I bite into fruit so delicious !
But I shudder and shrink back in fear and in horror,
Knowing well, that lips pressed to the lips of such charmer,
Have—dreadful to think of—been choked up with ashes.

But the fairest
Lo ! come hither.
What are they bearing ?
Steps to the throne,
Tapestry, seat,
Hangings and ornaments
For a pavilion.
Rolling above in folds,
Are formed, as 'twere, garlands of clouds,
To wave o'er the head of our Queen.
And now, invited, she already hath
Ascended the high couch.
Advance ye slowly, step by step.
Range yourselves gracefully.

Worthy, worthy, three times worthy,
Be such reception cordially received !

. [All that the CHORUS has indicated is gradually done.

FAUST appears, after a long train of pages
and squires have descended, on the steps, in Court
dress of the Middle Ages, and comes down slowly
and with dignity

Chorus-leader. If the gods have not now, as oft they do,
To this man lent but for a little while
A form of such exceeding dignity ;
And if the lofty grace, the aspect, that
Wins us to love, be not their transient boon,
All he at any time essays will be
Successful ; be it in battle-strife with men
Or in the little war of Love with lovely ladies.
He is, in truth, to be preferred to many,
Whom I have seen, the prized ones of the earth.
With staid, deliberate, respectful step,
I see the Prince advance. Turn thee, O Queen !

[FAUST steps forward with a man, LYNCEUS, in
chains

Faust. Instead of solemn ceremonial greeting,
Instead of deferential welcoming,
My bounden service—I bring here to thee
In chains this faithless serf, who, failing in
His duty, caused it that I fail in mine.
[To LYNCEUS]. Here ! Kneel down. To this noblest lady
make

Confession of thy guilt. This man, high Queen,
Is he, who, gifted with rare power of vision,
Hath his appointed province to look round
From the tall tower ; and with sharp eye to range
Over the heaven-space, over the broad earth ;
To give report of all that here or yonder
Shows itself, stirring from the circling hills
Into the valley or towards the castle ;
Be it a drove of cattle in long wave,
Or army in its march. That we secure,
And this defy. To-day—oh ! what neglect !
You were approaching, and he tells it not :
Thus our reception of such honoured guest
Is all deficient in solemnity.
His is the guilt—the forfeit is his life.

Already in the blood of death deserved
He now should lie ; but thine it is alone
To punish—to show mercy—at thy will.

Hel. High though the dignity that you concede
Of Judge and Ruler ; and though it may be
That as I much suspect, you do but tempt me ;
Yet will I the first duty of the Judge
Fulfil in hearing the accused. Speak then.

Lynceus [*warder of the tower*].

Let me kneel down ! Gazing on her,
Let me perish ! let me live !
—Gift of Gods—Divinest Lady—
Heart, life, all to her I give.

Eastward was my glance directed
Watching for the sun's first rays.
In the south—oh ! sight of wonder—
Rose the bright orb's sudden blaze.

Thither was my eye attracted.
Vanished bay and mountain height,
Earth and heaven unseen and all things,
All but that enchanted light.

Though mine eye is as the lynx's
From his tree-top, here its beams
Failed. I struggled with the darkness
As when one awakes from dreams.

Strangely, suddenly, the turrets,
Towers and barred gates disappear ;
Mist-wreaths heaving, waving, clearing
Pass, and leave a Goddess here.

Eye and heart I turned toward her,
Feeding on that gentle light ;
Beauty, Hers, all-dazzling Beauty,
Dazzled and entranced me quite.

I forgot to play the warder,
And the trumpet-welcome give.
Threaten !—slay not wholly ! Beauty
Tempers anger, bids me live !

Hel. The evil I brought with me I may not punish.
Woe is me ! How strange a destiny pursues me,
Everywhere so to fool men's hearts that they
Respect not their own selves, nor what erewhile was
honoured.

Forcing, seducing, warring, violating.
Demigods, heroes, gods and demons even
Dragging me here and there about with them.
A strange wild life of hurrying to and fro.
I, when I was but one, drove the world mad ;
'Twas worse, when seen a second apparition ;
And now a threefold, fourfold self, I bring
Bewilderment still with me—trouble on trouble.
Discharge the good man here—let him be free ;
Blame should not strike him whom a god hath fooled.

Faust. Entranced with wonder, Queen, I here behold

The unerring archer, here the stricken quarry ;
The bow that sped the arrow and the wounded.
Arrows fly thick on arrows, piercing me ;
And, glancing crosswise, everywhere, methinks,
Are whirling feathered round in court and castle.
What am I now ? All in a moment you
Make rebels of my faithfulest—make my walls
Unsafe ; and henceforth will my warriors serve
None but the conquering, unconquered lady.
What can I, but transfer myself and all
I fancied mine to thee ? At thy feet let me
Do homage, free and true to thee, my mistress—
Thee to whom, soon as seen, in sovereign right
All became subject—wealth, possessions, throne !

[LYNCEUS returns, bearing a chest—others follow him
with chests

Lyn. See me, Queen, returning, see !
The wealthy beg a glance from thee :
He looked on thee, and feels since then
The poorest and most rich of men.

How moved I still from triumph on
To triumph ! Here, enslaved ! undone !
Avails not now the sharp eye's aid :
Back from thy throne it sinks dismayed.

We from the far East hither prest,
Pouring our armies o'er the West :
A mass of peoples, long, broad, vast,
And the first knew not of the last.

The first hath fallen. The next his stand
Made good. The third came spear in hand.
Each man a hundred's strength supplied,
And thousands slain unnoted died.

In storm we rushed along. Our hordes,
From place to place, of all were lords.
Where I to-day held lordly sway,
To-morrow others seized their prey.

A quick glance o'er our spoils—one laid
Hard grasp upon the fairest maid,
One on the steer of firmest tread,
And all with horses onward sped.

But I, with glance of boundless range,
Sought everywhere the rare, the strange.
What others shared its charm of power
Lost straightway, like a withered flower.

And thus for treasures hid from light,
Led only by my own keen sight,
Chest, casket, shrine, with searching look
I pierced, and every secret nook.

Thus have I gathered heaps of gold,
And star-like gems of price untold.
Of all, the emerald, on thy breast
Alone is pure enough to rest.

And waving between lip and ear
Be the deep sea-bed's oval tear :
While in faint blush beside thy cheek
The ruby fades, abashed and weak.

And here I bend in homage meet,
And lay my tribute at thy feet ;
To thee, to thee my treasures yield,
The crops of many a bloody field.

Though here be treasure-chests full store,
Yet have I iron coffers more :
Let me but in thy orbit be,
And vaults of wealth I heap for thee.

Form of all forms ! Earth saw thee. Power,
Wealth, Reason, in that glorious hour
Bowed, and adoring bent the knee,
Type of all loveliness, to thee !

All that with guarding grasp for mine
I held—flows fast away, is thine !
How bright it was—how pure—how high !
How dimmed, how pale—when thou art nigh !

Thus all, I once possessed, decayed
Like grass mown down, is left to fade :
Oh ! with approving glance, once more
The splendour it has lost restore.

Faust [to LYNCEUS]. Off with your heap of gatherings—
 trophies of

Deeds desperate and daring—off with them !
Hence ! unproved indeed, but unrewarded.
Hers is already all that in its heart
The castle hides. Why special gifts to her,
Then, offer ? Go : range treasure upon treasure ;
In imagery sublime set forth the spirit
Unseen of grandeur. Let the arched ceilings glow
As 'twere a second heaven-cope. Paradises
Of lifeless life prepare.
Hastening before her steps let flowering carpets
On carpets roll—let the soft ground swell up
To meet her foot. To woo and win her glance
Let splendour shine from everything around :
Splendour o'erpowering all eyes but a god's.

Lyn. Light order ! Easy to obey !

Say, rather, pastime 'tis, and play.
It is not wealth, it is not lands,
But love and life that she commands.
Before the splendour thus revealed
Of heavenly Beauty armies yield :
The warrior's sword is blunt and dull,

Powerless beside the beautiful :
 And cold and dim, the sun's own light
 Is darkened in her presence bright.
 How poor are all things to one glance
 Of that divinest countenance !

Hel. [to FAUST]. I would speak to you. Come up to my side. [Exit

The vacant place demands its master, and
 Makes mine secure.

Faust [*kneels, as doing homage to HELENA*]. First suffer me to kneel ;

And, noble lady, let my true allegiance
 Please thee ; and suffer me to kiss the hand
 That lifts me to thy side. Support me as
 Regent with thee of thy unmeasured kingdom,
 And to thyself thus win adorer, servant,
 Protector—all in one.

Hel. Everywhere wonders
 I see and hear, and I have much to ask :
 I would particularly wish to learn
 How that man's speech sounded at once so strange—
 Strange, yet familiar. One tone fits another :
 If a word strikes the ear, another comes
 To fondle and to make love to the first.

Faust. If the familiar spoken language of
 Our peoples, flowing in these forms, give pleasure,
 Song, satisfying ear and feeling in
 Their inmost depths, song must be ecstasy.
 Shall we try to wed the sweet sounds ? Dialogue
 Allures, and draws them out.

Hel. And could I speak
 So beautifully ? Can you teach the art ?

Faust. 'Tis easy. 'Tis but speaking from the heart.
 The happy still looks round for sympathy.
 Overflowing joy still says——

Hel. Rejoice with me.

Faust. We think not now of future or of past.
 The Present——

Hel. Oh ! that it could always last !

Faust. What can arrest the moment's falling sand,
 And to delight give permanence ?

Hel. My hand.

Chor. Who can blame her—blame our princess—
If she look with kindly aspect
On the lord of this high castle?
Here we all to-day are captives—
She and we alike imprisoned—
Captives, as too oft we have been,
Since in ignominious ruin
Ilium fell. The sad days followed
Of our wanderings labyrinthine.
Houseless, homeless, wandering women!

Women to men's loves accustomed
Choosers are not.—They are adepts,
Though, in all the art of charming;
And upon shepherds, golden-ringleted,
Or black and bristly Fauns,
Lavish the moment's smile.

Near, and more near, our lovers, see! are sitting:
Hand in hand they rock them
Over the sumptuous throne's high-pillowed pride.

Princely Majesty denies not
To itself the full revealing
Of the fond heart's secret raptures,
With the world around to witness.

Hel. I feel so far away, and yet so near:
How fondly do I say, "Here! happy here!"

Faust. I scarce can breathe. I tremble, words are none.
It is a dream, and time and place are gone.

Hel. What dream comes o'er me of a former day?
Methinks I lived and died and passed away.
And now I live anew, wound up with thee!
Him, whom I know not, love confidently!

Faust. Oh! analyse not thy strange destiny:
Be—if it were but for the moment—Be!

Phor. [entering hurriedly]. Pretty time to give and get
Lessons in Love's alphabet.
Lisping love-songs, analysing
Feelings, kissing, criticising.
Feel you not your spirits wither?
Hear you not the trumpets' clangour?

Waves of men are rolling hither.
 Menelaus comes in anger :
 'Tis the husband—the avenger.
 Seize the sword, bind on the armour,
 Guard you from the coming danger.
 Know you not how for this charmer
 Poor Deiphobus was treated ?
 Would you have the scene repeated ?
 Ears and nose sliced off repaid his
 Fond attentions to the ladies.

Such doom is thine. The light one from the roof-tree
 Shall dangle. For the Queen a new-edged axe
 Is at the altar ready.

Faust. Audacious interruption. In she presses
 Evermore mischievous. Even were there danger,
 I do detest such senseless agitation.
 The comeliest messenger, brings he a tale
 Of evil—it blots all his beauty out
 And makes him hideous. Thou, that art the Hideous
 —All-hideous—absolutely dost delight
 Only in bringing messages of evil.
 But now for once you are out in your reckoning.
 Aye ! shake the air with empty breath ! Here danger
 Is none ; and were there danger, danger here
 Itself would be but idle threatening.

*[Signals, explosions from the towers, trumpets and
 cornets, martial music. An army marches across
 the stage]*

Faust. Crowding, see the ring of heroes,
 How they bouned them for the field.
 Would a man win lady's favour,
 Be his breast her fence—her shield !

*[To the leaders, who detach themselves from their
 columns and advance]*

With pent-in, silent rage, sure pledge of
 Conquest in the coming hour,
 Of the North the ripening blossoms,
 Of the East the full-formed flower,

Steel-clad host ! They shattered kingdoms,
 Realm on realm with ruin spread ;

Hark! their step—or is it earthquake?
And their march!—the thunder's tread.

'Twas at Pylos we first landed;
And old Nestor—where is he?
—Vainly did the puny kinglings
Face the armies of the Free.

From these walls drive Menelaus
—Plunderer! to roam the sea,
Rove and rob—the lurking pirate's
Life his choice and destiny!—

Dukes—I greet you with the title
By command of Sparta's queen—
Lay at her feet vale and mountain.
Yours the empire you thus win.

German! guard the bays of Corinth,
Fence and rampart round it be!
With its hundred vales Achaïa
Goth! do I confide to thee!

Hosts of France, advance to Elis!
In Messene, Saxon, reign!
Norman! sweep the seas triumphant,
Argolis bring back again!

In his happy home each dwelling
Shall his strength abroad make known.
Over all be Sparta mistress,
Our fair queen's time-honoured throne!

And she sees them, while enjoying,
Each and all, this glorious land,
At her feet seek Light and Wisdom,
Rightful title to command.

[FAUST descends. The princes close round him in a
narrow circle to hear his commands and directions

Chor: Who would hold in his possession
The most beautiful of women,

Round him, let him, first of all things,
Look for the support of weapons.
Fond words may have won her to him,
Won the highest of earth's treasures.
Unassailed he cannot hold her :
Flatterers artfully wile her away from him—
Spoilers daringly tear her away from him—
This to guard against, he must think well on it.

Our prince for this I praise,
—Esteem him wise o'er others—
That, brave and prudent, he with him hath leagued
Forces ; that strong men, obedient,
Watch every glance of his that speaks his will,
Loyally obey his mandates,
Find their own gain in such fealty ;
Have thus from the liege lord reward and thanks,
And lord and vassal, both, win the high meed of fame.

Who now can tear away the Beautiful
From the well-armed and powerful possessor ?
His is she. Who but must rejoice,
That she is his ? and most must we rejoice,
Whom he with her protects ; proud walls securing
Perfect defence within,
A mighty army our sure shield without.

Faust. The gifts that we on these bestow,
Each man's feof an ample land,
Are great and lordly.—But enow !
Midst of all take we our stand !

Home, round which the waves leap joyous,
Island-home ! though hill-chains light
The last mountain-branch of Europe
With thy placid shore unite.

Rival nations all shall shield thee,
Land above all lands of earth !
For my queen the land is conquered,
That first smiled upon her birth.

While Eurotas' reeds were rustling,
She, whom wide earth worships, first

—Dazzling sisters ! mother ! brothers !—
From the shell all-radiant burst.

Lo ! the land its bright flowers offers !
Thee it welcomes, thee doth call.
Though all earth be thine, fair lady,
Love thy own land best of all !

That, though the sunbeams bright like arrows keen
And cold pierce mountain ridge and jagged peaks,
Let 'mong the rocks glance any speck of green,
And the goat gnawing there its scant meal seeks.

Springs leap aloft. In concert down rush rills,
And green are meadows, vales, declivities.
The glad eye, ranging o'er a hundred hills,
Sheep-flocks spread far and wide unnumbered sees.

Cautious, apart, measuring each footstep grave,
Kine tread the brink, yet danger none ; for all
Is ample shelter : vault is here, and cave,
The ready refuge of the mountain wall.

Pan shields them yonder. Nymphs of Life are dwell-
ing
'Mong bushy clefts, where moist fresh spots you see.
With instincts, as of higher regions telling,
Strives branch-like up tree crowded close on tree.

Old woods ! The oak majestic there plants foot :
Bough jags to bough—self-willed, athwart, awry.
Fed with sweet dews, serene the maple-shoot
Sports with her burthen as she seeks the sky.

In shady nooks, from founts maternal, here
Warm milk for little child and lamb flows free ;
And fruit, the valley's ready food, is near,
And honey dropping from the hollow tree.

Here " to be happy " is the right of birth—
The sparkling cheek and lip man's proper wealth.
Each in his sphere is as a god on earth,
And everywhere is calm of heart and health.

How in this pure air doth the flower unfold
 Of human life ! and the glad child attain
 His father's strength ! in wonder we behold,
 And " are they Gods ? " we ask, " or are they men ? "

A shepherd's form and face Apollo wore,
 And human shepherds seemed of heavenly race,
 Where Nature is true Nature, evermore
 Such likeness is. Each world doth all embrace.

[Sits down beside HELENA

Such gain is mine and thine. The past be thrown
 Behind us ! Feel, that thou the true child art
 Of the highest Jove—of that first world, alone,
 'Mong all that now on earth are, rightful part.

Thee shall no fastness chain with jealous mound.
 Eternal in its youth—exulting—free—
 Still close to Sparta winds the enchanted ground,
 Wooing our stay, of blissful Arcady.

Happy land ! that thou hast fled to,
 Won to cheeriest destiny ;
 Bowers for thrones, and our free spirits
 Blithe as gales of Arcady !

*The scene changes quite. Secret bowers resting on a range of
 caverned rocks, shady groves extending to the rocks.
 FAUST and HELENA are not seen. The CHORUS lie
 scattered about—asleep*

PHORKYAS, CHORUS

Phor. How long the maidens have been asleep I know not.
 If they have been seeing everything in dreams,
 That I saw bright and clear before my waking eyes,
 I know not ; and I wish to know ; and therefore will I
 rouse them.

The young things will be all astonishment :
 —And ye, too, Bearded Ones, who tarry yonder
 On the audience-seats, in the earnest hope of seeing
 Something to make the marvellous credible.

Up, up, girls ! be awake !—be alive ! shake your bright tresses,
Shake sleep from your eyes—blink not, but listen to me.

Chor. Do but speak, and tell us, tell us what of marvellous hath happened.

Dearly we do love to listen to the legends we believe not.
On these walls to gaze for ever is a sad thing—we are weary.

Phor. Children, are ye so soon weary—sleep scarce rubbed off from your eyes—

Listen. In these caves, these grottoes—in these bowers were shade and shelter

Given, as to idyllic lovers, to my lord and to my lady.

Chor. What ? within there ?

Phor. All secluded lived they from the world around them.

Me, and me alone, they trusted. In their service confidential

Mine was the high place of honour ; but, as is you know befitting

One so placed, I still looked round me, everywhere but towards the lovers :

Looked for herbs of sovereign virtue—sought on barks of trees rare mosses—

Showed deep skill in herbs and simples. They were all alone together.

Chor. You would have us think, within there that whole worlds of space were spreading—

Wood and meadows, lakes and brooklets. What a fable 'tis you weave.

Phor. Inexperienced ! ye may doubt ; but here are unexplored recesses.

Halls on halls and courts unnumbered in my musings I discovered :

Suddenly a burst of laughter from the hollow cave comes echoed.

I look in. A boy is leaping, from the bosom of the Lady,
To the husband—from the father, to the mother. And the kissing,

And the kissing, and the toying—foolish love's fond playfulnesses—

Shout of mirth, and shriek of pleasure, in their quick succession stun me.

Happy child he is, and fearless. See him springing naked,
wingless,

—Wingless, or he were like Eros, Life's glad Genius, be-
nignant—

Playful frolic, as the young Faun, could the Faun forget
the nature

With the wild woods that unites him, and had he a human
heart.

On the firm ground see him springing! And the ground,
with life elastic,

Heaves him like an arrow upward; and again, again re-
bounding,

The high-vaulted roof he touches. And the anxious Mother
warns him:

“Bound on Earth at thy free pleasure—leap again and
yet again there;

But repel the thought of flying; but resist the wild rash
impulse.

Wings to bear thee onward, upward, thou hast none. Re-
sist the impulse.”

The fond earnest father warns him: “In the earth is all
the virtue

That so swiftly darts thee upward: touch but with light
foot the surface,

Like the son of Earth, Antæus, thou with instant strength
art gifted.”

So from summit on to summit, all along these jagged
ridges

Leaps he, bounding and rebounding, like the ball you
strike in play.

Suddenly into a hollow of a rough glen he hath vanished,
And we deem him lost. The mother wails. The father
offers comfort.

I stand shrugging up my shoulders. But what glorious
re-appearance!

Are there treasure-chambers yonder?—hidden stores of
rich apparel?

Robes with stripes of living brightness, splendid as the
flowers of summer,

On the glorious boy are shining. Proud and princely youth
looks he!

Tassels from his arms are waving. Round his breast are
ribands fluttering.

In his hand the golden lute-harp. Every way a little
Phœbus.
Onward, in the flush of spirit, in the dauntless joy of boy-
hood,
Moves he to the mountain summit, treads the high cliffs
overhanging.
Wondrous Child! we gaze upon him—with delight and
love and wonder;
And his parents, in wild transport, clasp them in each
other's arms:
But the soft light round his temples—who can tell what
there is shining?
Golden glitter? Or the bright flame of irradiating spirit?
In his bearing, in his gestures, the proud boy even now
proclaims him
Future master of all Beauty—him the Melodies Eternal
I have through all his members moulded. You shall hear
him, you shall see him—
Hear him with delight and wonder—with delight unfelt till
now.

Chor. And callest thou this a marvel, Cretan born?
Thou' to the Poet's teaching word
Hast never lent, belike, a listening ear;
Never to Ionia's legends;
Never, mayhap, hast heard what Hellas tells
Of the fathers of the land,
Tales rich in feats of heroes and of gods.

All, done in this our day,
Is but a melancholy echo of
Glorious ancestral times.
Thy tale is nothing comparable with
That which their lovely fable
—Fiction, more to be believed
Than what the world calls truth—
Sang of the son of Maia.

A shapely boy was he—a small, strong, wily rogue.
Him in his birth-hour did the fondling nursemaids—
Patting and playing with the wily rogue,
Swathing in softest, finest, purest fleece—
Leave cradled in a purple coverlet.
They fancied that he thus was fastened down:

An idle fancy ! an unreasoned dream !
Behold ! the shapely, strong, small, wily one
Draws gently out his light elastic limbs—
Displacing not the purple shell
That would with painful pressure hold him down—
As the freed butterfly
From the stiff chrysalis spreads out his wings,
To wander through the sunbeam-lighted air
At his own happy will—bold voyager !

And Hermes, thus—that he to thieves and scoundrels,
And all who seek a scrambling livelihood,
Might be in every way their favouring demon—
Soon plays his dexterous tricks.
Swift from the ruler of the seas he steals
The trident, and from Ares self his sword
Slily out of the sheath ;
From Phœbus, bow and arrows ; from Hephæstos
His tongs. Even Father Jupiter's own lightnings
He would have made his own, did not the fire
Frighten him. Eros he overthrew in wrestling :
And from the Queen of Cyprus, as she kissed him,
He filched away the girdle from her breast.

*An enchanting purely melodious strain, as of a harp, sounds
from the grotto. All attend, and appear inwardly
affected. From this to the next marked pause the whole
is accompanied with full-toned music*

Phor. Listen to this loveliest music ;
Cast these fables far away.
The old crowds of gods fling from you—
Think not of them. Past are they.

None will understand you. Critics
Of a higher school of art
Say, that from the heart must flow forth
All that works upon the heart.

Chor. If to flattery thou art softened,
—Thou whom Nature hates and fears—
Is it strange, from trance awaking,
That we find a joy in tears ?

Let the cheery sunshine vanish.
In the heart if day arise,
We shall find in our own bosoms
What the outer world denies.

HELENA. FAUST. EUPHORION.

Euph. When I sing my childlike carols
You are happy as your child ;
When I bound, as though to music,
The parental heart leaps wild.

Hel. Love, to give man Earth's best blessing,
Heart to noble heart leads on ;
But, to yield us Heaven's own rapture,
Shapes a third—our precious one.

Faust. All is found that love can give us :
I·thine own—thou, part of me.
Oh ! as we are now united,
Could it but for ever be !

Chor. Many years of crowded pleasure,
In the mild gleam of this boy
Bless our happy pair with promise.
Oh ! the union gives me joy.

Euph. Let me bound, let me spring !
To the heavens would I haste.
'Tis my longing, my passion :
It seizes me fast.

Faust. But gently, but gently,
Dear son, I entreat thee ;
That downfall and ruin
O'ertake not or meet thee.
In thy fall
Perish all.

Euph. Prisoned no longer
On earth will I be !
Let my hands go,
Let my tresses wave free.
My robes, they are mine :
All in vain ye hold me.

Hel. Think, oh ! think

Whose thou art—
 How our heart
 Will sink and sink :
 The bliss that we have won—
 Mine, thine, and his—undone :
 All, all by thee, rash son.

Chor. The union that their bliss did make,
 Fate, I fear, will shortly break.

Hel. and Faust. Dear son, for thy parents' sake
 Be this fiery frenzied mood
 Over-mastered and subdued.
 Rural bliss thy life employ !
 Be Arcadia's pride and joy !

Euph. 'Tis but to please you I refrain.
[Whirls through the CHORUS; draws them forth to dance]

Cheerful race, how light I hover
 Here where happy maidens be.
 Goes the music well ?—the measure ?

Hel. Lead the fair ones out with thee
 To the graceful dance, and gaily
 Play the momentary lover.

Faust. These poor tricks give me small pleasure.
 How I wish it all were over.
[EUPHORION and CHORUS dancing and singing move about, interweaving]

Chor. When thy arms in the dance thou so gracefully
 spreadest,
 When thy dark locks are floating and flashing around,
 When the foot glances light from the floor that thou
 treadest,
 And the limbs to the magic of melody bound—
 Sweet child ! how thy heart must be swelling with joy :
 We love thee—all love thee—oh ! beautiful boy !

Euph. *[to the CHORUS].* Away and away.
 Let us play a new play :
 A race let us run,
 And as you are many and I am but one,
 Let all of you here
 Be a swift herd of deer.
 And away ! and away !
 With me for the hunter and you for the prey !

Chor. Why this eager mad pursuing?
Your own object thus undoing?
We, like you, can fancy blisses
In a shower of burning kisses;
And our heart we feel incline
To that fair young face of thine.
If some little time be past
With us in respectful wooing,
You will find us yours at last.

Euph. Pursue them! Pursue them!
O'er stock and o'er stone,
Through brake and through forest,
The wild game has flown.
What is easily won
Hath no charms in my sight:
'Tis the pride of the conquest
That is the delight.

Hel. and Faust. Madness his beyond all hope!
Hearken! Heard you not a horn
Threatening wood and hillside slope?
—What a tumult? What a cry?

Chor. [*entering quickly one by one*]. Oh! how swiftly he
rushed by,
Looks on us with slight and scorn.
See, the wildest of our group,
He hath grasped her, he hath clasped her,
Hither in his arms hath borne.

Euph. [*bearing in a young girl*]. She is mine. I've
caught the coy one,
What care I that uncomplying
She resists me? I enjoy one
That attracts me by denying.
Let me still to mine feel prest
Breasts in proud reluctance swelling:
Give me Passion's burning zest,
Lips rebelling, hands repelling,
Let me feel triumphant still
Over hers my ardent will.

Maiden. Loose me! In this little frame
Spirit with as fierce a flame
Burns; and know this will of mine
• Not less resolute than thine.
Think you, then, that force can chain me?

Or your violence constrain me ?
 Hold me still ! Aye, dare the danger !
 I can be my own avenger.
 Ha ! you're scorched ! and I am free.
 Fool ! rash fool ! remember me
 Laughing, wheresoe'er I be,
 Laughing, laughing still at thee.

[Flames up, and flies off in a blaze]

Follow to the fields of air,
 Hope to meet the vanished there !
 Follow to the caverned hollow
 Of the deep earth. Follow ! follow !

Euph. *[shaking off the flames]*. Rock and forest !

Rock and forest,
 —Chains around me flung !
 What to me such chains, such fetters ?
 I am active, I am young.
 Yonder rave the tameless tempests,
 Yonder rage the mighty billows,
 Voices of the free !
 Me they call ! me ! me !
 Both from far I hear ;

Oh, that I were near ! *[Springs higher up the rock]*

Hel., Faust, and Chor. Would'st thou, like the mountain
 wild-goat,

Clamber ? Oh, we fear ! we fear !

Euph. Higher must I rise, yet higher—
 Wider must the prospect be,
 Well I know the land where I am.
 In the middle of the island,
 Pelops, in the midst of thy land,
 Loved alike by earth and sea.

Chor. *[with affectionate tone]*. If the woodland and the
 wold

Have no charms thy heart to hold,
 Other spells have we to gain thee,
 To allure thee, to detain thee.
 From the hill-side slope will we
 Grapes in clusters bring to thee ;
 Grapes and dusk figs, and the yellow
 Rich gold of the orange mellow.
 Happy is the land possessing
 Peace, and with it every blessing !

Euph. Oh, dream ye of peace, then ? Dream on, whose delight

Is in dreams ; but for me be the joy of the fight !
War 'is the word. Where the broad banners shine,
Let me rush to the battle. The conquest is mine.

Chor. When a land is at peace,
Who would call back the day
• Of war—all of Love
And of Hope flings away.

Euph. To the children of Achaia,
Heroes in the battle-strife.
Daring danger, breathing freedom,
Ever prodigal of life—
With a holy sense that peril
Damps not, lavishing their blood ;
Everything brings to such warrior,
To such country, gain and good.

Chor. Higher ! higher ! see him press,
Nor in distance seems he less.
Victory before him beaming,
Light of armour round him gleaming,
Onward ! onward ! see him rise.

Euph. Not on wall or wave relying,
On himself let each man rest ;
Fortress every foe defying
Is the brave man's iron breast.

Would ye dwell unconquered ? Haste ye,
Haste ye, to the battle-plain !
Women Amazons becoming,
Every child a hero then.

Chor. [*gazing on EUPHORION*]. Holy, holy Poesie,
Oh, ascend thy native sky !
Shine on, thou brightest star,
Farther, and yet more far !
Still the light beams down to cheer,
And the voice with joy we hear.

Euph. No ! I am a child no longer.
Armed behold the youth move on
• With the strong, the free, the mighty,
Who ere now in heart was one.

Onward, to the field of glory!
On to victory! On! On!

Hel. and Faust. Scarcely numbered with the living,
Scarcely given to cheerful day,
Would he to the fearful distance
Whirl in giddy flight away?
And, the kindly tie between us,
Was it but the gleam
Of a transient dream?

Euph. Thunder on the sea!—and thunder,
How it rolls from vale to vale!
Host 'gainst host in dust and billows,
Throng on throng, and pang and bale!

Destiny
Here bids die,

And the mandate we know well.

Hel., Faust, and Chor. Oh, what horror!—oh, what
terror!

Is thy destiny, then, death?

Euph. Shall I look on war at distance?

—I would in the battle breathe!

Hel., Faust, and Chor. Rashness! danger! and—to
die!

Euph. Yet—and, look you, wings unfolding!—
Thither, thither would I fly!

I must! I must! Grudge not the joy of flight!

*[He throws himself up into the air, his clothes bear up
for a moment. His head beams, a stream of
light follows]*

Chor. Icarus! Icarus!

This—this is grief to us!

*[A beautiful youth falls at the feet of the parents. In
the dead the audience think they recognise a well-
known form; but the corporeal immediately fades
away, the aureola rises like a comet to heaven.
Clothes, mantle, and harp remain lying on the
ground]*

Hel. and Faust. Pain and joy, each follows other,
Anguish comes, and plaintive moan.

Euph. *[from the depth].* In the realm of shadow, mother,
Let me not abide alone!

Chor. [*dirge*]. Not alone ! Where'er thy dwelling,
If, indeed, on earth we knew thee,
Though thy home be far from daylight,
All hearts still with love pursue thee !
Lost—yet how can we lament thee !
Gone—we weep and envy thee !
Bright thy day ; but bright or clouded
Song and heart were proud and free.

Born to all that makes earth happy !
Lofty lineage, sense of power !
Lost, alas ! too soon. Youth's promise
Torn by tempest, leaf and flower !
Eye not to be baffled. Human
Indignation at all wrong.
Best of women loved thee. Magic
All its own was in thy song.

How the whirl of passion bore thee
Self-devoted to the snare !
With what rage all laws and usage
Didst thou rend, proud captive there !
Yet, at last, in generous feeling,
True stay thy pure spirit gained ;
All that noblest is and brightest
Sought by thee—but unattained.

Unattained—oh ! who attains it ?
Ask—will Destiny reply
This day when a bleeding people,
Dumb with sorrow, sees him die ?
—Yet fresh bursts of song awaken !
Droop in helpless grief no more,
For the earth again will blossom,
And bear fruit as heretofore !

[*Perfect pause. The music ceases*

Hel. [*to FAUST*]. An old saying, alas ! proves itself
true in me—

Beauty and Happiness remain not long united ;
The ties of life and love both are asunder torn.
Sadly, for love of both, I say to each farewell,
And once again, yet once again. into thine arms I throw
• me !

Take, Persephone, oh! take the boy and me!

[*She embraces FAUST. The corporeal part vanishes.
Her dress and veil remain in his arms*

Phor. [*to FAUST*]. Hold tight what still survives to you
of all

That was hers. Don't let the cloak go; demons are
Tugging and tearing at its skirts, and fain

Would pluck it down from you to their underworld.

Hold fast! 'Tis not the goddess you have lost,

But it is godlike; make the best use of the lady's

Invaluable favours. Up! off with you!

'Twill lift you quickly,—that it will—high up

Above the vulgar, up into the air

As long as you can keep there. We two meet

Again—far off, far, very far away!

[*HELENA'S clothes dissolve into clouds, surround
FAUST, raise him into the air, and bear him
away*

Phor. [*takes EUPHORION'S dress, mantle, and lyre from
the ground, steps into the proscenium, lifts up these
remains and speaks*]

Well! Finding this is some luck. All the fire

Is gone—gone, not a doubt of it; but never fear,

The world will get on very well. We have

Enough—aye, quite enough to consecrate

A poet or two—aye, quite enough to madden

Your master-masons and apprentices

In the gay art of building rhymes, with envoy.

I cannot give them talents, but no matter.

The singing-robes are no bad things in themselves,

And I'll lend them the dress.

[*Sits down, leaning against a pillar, in the proscenium*

Panth. Swift speed we, maidens, now that we are at
freedom,

Disenthralled from the dreary spell of the old Thessalian
hag,

And from the giddy crash of the tangled sounds that
jingle

Confusedly on the ear and cloud the inner sense!

Descend we now to Hades! swiftly thither

Already hath the Queen with solemn step down glided.

Where she hath trod, her faithful maids should follow.

We find her at the throne of the Inscrutable.

Chor. With queens, where'er they be, it still goes right ;
In Hades even will they stand up erect
In unsubmitting pride, rank as of old maintaining—
Queens still ! fast friends of Queen Persephone.
But we—to pine away in lone recesses,
Deep meadows of asphodel,
Our sole companions being,
For ever and for ever,
The lengthy poplars and the barren willows !—
What life were this !—Like flitter-mice to twitter,
Whining, and whispering, unenjoying, spectral !

Leader of Chorus. Who has not earned a name, nor wills
the noble,
Belongs to the elements. Away with you !
My one abiding passionate desire
Is to be with my Queen.
Not high desert alone ; fidelity,
Too, hath its meed : it too preserves to us Person.

CHORUS—ALL

We to the daylight are given back,
The cheery day. Not persons now, indeed,
As once we were. That feel we, that we know.
But we to Hades never more return.
Spirits are we, and ever-living Nature
Makes on us, we on her,
Claims irresistible.

A PART OF THE CHORUS

Ever in the murmured whispers of the thousand boughs
here trembling,
We with gentle play lure upward from the root the living
currents
To the branches ; soon with leaflets, soon with buds to
deck, and blossoms,
As with glimmering gems, the tresses floating lavishly in
air.
Autumn comes, with ripe fruit falling ;—joyous con-
course ! men and cattle
Crowding, crushing, grasping, cranching, rushing eagerly,
down pressing,

All regardless each of other. See them bowing, bending
round us,
As they, in old days undated, bent before the earliest
gods !

ANOTHER PART

Where these walls of rock far gleaming shine in pure and
glassy mirror,
We in peaceful waves are winding evermore our gentle
way ;
Lurk for every sound, and listen song of birds or wild reed's
music.
Is it Pan's own voice affrighting ?—We with voice, like
his, reply.
Whisper is it ?—We, too, whisper. Thunder ?—We reply
in thunders.
Earthquake shocks of repercussion, threefold, tenfold, roll
we back.

A THIRD PART

Sisters, you would call us truant. With the streams we
hasten onward,
Where the richly-cultured hill-slope, smiling, far away
allures us,
Ever downward, ever deeper, lead the life-diffusing waters
To the meadow-land, the trim lawn, and the garden round
the house.
Cypresses with spiry summits, rising yonder into ether,
Tell where they have found a mirror, tell the banks through
which we glide.

A FOURTH PART

Wander ye at will where lists you ! We will linger, we
will rustle
Round the richly-planted hill-slope, where, upon its staff
supported,
Leans the vine ; and the green berry, day by day, is
deepening, darkening.
Hour by hour, and through the whole day long, the vin-
tager's emotion
Shows to us the doubtful issue of the labours he so loves.

Now with spade and now with mattock, and now earthing,
pruning, binding,
To all gods he prays, at all times ; above all, prays to
•the Sun-god.

Little of his faithful servant's toil thinks Bacchus, the
enervate ;

Rests in bowers, reclines in grottoes, fondling there the
Youthful Faun.

Dissolute sits he, and dreaming, half with wine inebri-
ated

Round him heaped in skins, jars, vases, right and left of
the cool cavern,

That might serve for endless ages. But when all the gods,
when Helios,

More than all, has, blowing, moistening, warming, glow-
ing, drying, ripening,

Swelled the wine-bestowing berries, heaped the cluster-
•horn of Plenty,

Where the vintager in silence worked, see ! sudden life
and bustle.

Stir there is in every arbour ; rattling round from stake
to stake ;

Baskets, buckets, crackle, clatter ; vine-troughs groan
beneath their burthen ;

All to the great vat move onward, to the strong dance of
the wine-press.

Now the holy, heaven-sent fulness of the pure-born dewy
berries

Daringly is crushed and broken ; trampled down what was
their beauty

To a mass none love to look on—squeezed together, foam-
ing, splashing.

Now the sharp clash of the cymbal, with the timbrel's
brazen discord,

Tears the ear, and Dionysos is from mysteries unveiled.

Here he comes with goat-foot Satyrs, goat-foot Mænads
thyrsus-swinging.

Evermore, amid the discord, brays the ass of old Silenus.

Nothing's spared ; the cloven feet are trampling down all
laws and manners.

Reel the senses all ; the ear is by the din distracted,
deafened.

Drunken men for cups are groping, head and belly over-
burthened ;
Here and there a few are working. They but add to the
confusion ;
For they must, to hold the new wine, have the old skins
emptied fast.

[*The curtain falls. PHORKYAS in the proscenium
extends herself to giant height, steps down from
the cothurni, throws off mask and veil, and shows
herself as MEPHISTOPHELES, in order, as far as
is necessary, to comment on the piece in epilogue*

ACT IV

A HIGH MOUNTAIN

*Bold, jagged, rocky summit. A cloud moves on, rests against
the rock, and sinks down on a projecting ledge. The
cloud opens. FAUST steps out*

Faust. Below me, spreading far away, are deepest
solitudes,
And here, on this projecting ridge of the high mountain-
summit,
Choose I the place of my descent, dismissing
The car of cloud that hath so softly hither,
Through bright heaven, borne me over land and ocean.
It leaves me slowly—trails away—it breaks not into vapour.
In massy globes it rolls. Its course is striving to the east.
The eye is striving after it in awed astonishment.
It breaks—it wanders into waves—it changes, and it
changes.
A something there would shape itself.—The eye does not
deceive me ;
On sun-illumined pillows, in grandeur, see ! reclining,
Of more than woman's height, a godlike female figure.
I see it there—like Juno, Leda, Helena—
In majesty and love waving before mine eyes.

Alas ! already change hath come, and formless, broad,
 uptowering,
 Rests in the east as 'twere a far-off glacier dazzling,
 Mirroring the mighty import of the flying days.

O'er me still hovers a thin tender cloud-streak,
 Round breast and forehead—cheering, cooling, soothing !
 And now it rises lingeringly, and high and higher yet
 Condenses. Is the winning form I see
 But an illusion, that from my own fancy
 Moulds itself into Youth's first longed-for, still withheld,
 And highest good ? From the heart's depths up-gushing,
 As in the days of long ago are the heart's first, best
 treasures,
 Symbol of the aurora-love—alas ! too swift to vanish !—
 Of that first glance, how quickly felt ! which but the heart
 interprets—
 The rosy dawn-light of the heaven of boyhood's happy
 dreaming—
 That, could it linger here with us, all else would seem but
 shadow.
 Like Beauty of the Soul, the lovely form grows lovelier,
 Dissolves not ; upward floats—slowly—into the ether ;
 And with it, of my heart and mind draws the best part
 away.

[A seven-league boot stamps down. Another follows
 instantly. MEPHISTOPHELES descends. The
 Boots stride hastily on

Meph. [to FAUST]. Aye ! well stepped out ! But what
 could be the freak

That led you to descend upon this peak ?
 Was there no place, then, to alight upon
 But yawning wilderness and horrid stone ?
 I know the objects round. I know them well.
 Where we are standing was the floor of Hell.

Faust. Still the same foolish legends, evermore,
 On every subject ! Will you ne'er give o'er ?

Meph. [earnestly]. When long ago, down from the upper
 sky,

The Lord had banished us—and I know why—
 To the far depths, where in the centre glow
 Fires everlasting, round and round that throw
 Red restless flames, we found that we had got

Into a place too crowded, and too hot.
 The Devils got sick, and feeling ill at ease
 In their new prison, began to cough and sneeze.
 With sulphur-stench and acid Hell boiled o'er—
 Foul vapour—then more foul it grew and more,
 Till the smooth crust was parched and burst asunder ;
 And topsy-turvy Science tells, with wonder,
 How to earth's surface rose what had been under. '
 We made our way out of the red-hot caves
 Into pure air—are princes who were slaves.
 An open secret—mystery well concealed,
 And only to the latter times revealed.

Faust. To me the mountain mass is nobly dumb :
 I ask not, whence uprisen ? or wherefore come ?
 Nature—that in herself is all in all—
 When her pure will first shaped the round earth's ball,
 Formed depth and summit for her own delight,
 Heaped rock on rock, linked height to mountain height ;
 Moulded and led, as 'twere, with gentlest hand,
 The hill-side slope to meet the level land.
 Then came soft green and growth. She doth not seek
 For her delight wild ferment or mad freak.

Meph. Aye ! so you say, and think it clear as light ;
 But he, who then was present, must be right.
 Why, I myself was by when flames upwreathed
 From the abyss, and sulphurous vapour breathed ;
 When Moloch's hammer, linking rock to rock,
 Struck chips in thousands from the rough old block,
 And scattered, as he forged the mountain chain,
 Huge granite fragment-splinters o'er the plain.
 Masses of foreign substance load the land ;
 How whirled down there, no man can understand.
 Philosophers—they can make nothing of it ;
 They've thought and thought : but what does thinking
 profit ?

There lies the rock, your theorists defying—
 There lies the rock—there must they leave it lying.
 The common people—they alone receive,
 And with faith, not to be disturbed, believe
 The plain broad fact. In their undoubting creed
 'Tis miracle. 'Tis Satan's work indeed.
 Doubt never troubles them—the shrewd old judges,
 Propt on the crutch of faith, my pilgrim trudges,

Limping with pious foot o'er devil-ridges
To devil-stones, devil-chapels, devil-bridges.

Faust. 'Tis after all not un-amusing to
See Nature from a devil's point of view.

Meph. What is't to me? Be Nature what it
may?

My honour's touched—the devil was in the fray.
'Twas we—we did it—we, the boys that shine
Unequalled actors in the lofty line.
See you our sign and cypher written clear—
Convulsion, tumult, devil's work, madness here.

But, to have done with topics that but tease you,
Let's come to business. In your journeying
O'er earth, and through the air; while on the wing,
Did nothing on our upper surface please you?—
You, who have seen from your observatory
The kingdoms of the world and all their glory?
—Still that unsatisfied impatient air?—
Did nothing give you any pleasure there?

Faust. There did. A mighty project lured me on—
Guess what it was.

Meph. That easily is done.
We'll fancy a metropolis,
—The heart and kernel of which is
A sewer and sink of nastiness;
The dense spot where his food the burgher seeks;
Lanes crooked, narrow gables; slender peaks;
The crowded market-place—kale, turnips, leeks;
Shambles, where flies on joints well fattened,
Making themselves at home, have battened.
Thither at any hour repair,
Activity and stench are there,
Enough for you, if anywhere.
—Then come wide squares, and streets. that claim
Distinction from their very name;
And spreading, where no gate confines,
The suburbs flow in boundless lines.
There how delightful is the roar
And roll of coaches evermore;
The bustling motion, in and out,
And to and fro, and round about,

And out and in, they heave and drive—
 A swarming ant-hill all alive.
 There let me ride, or on the car
 Of splendid state be seen from far—
 Alone, aloft, admired, revered,
 By hundred thousands gazed on, feared.

Faust. Small pleasure from such source should I derive.

We seek to make men happy as they may
 Be made, and happy each in his own way ;
 Would mould the manners, educate the mind :
 And our reward for all is that we find
 We have made rebels.

Meph. [*in continuation, disregarding FAUST's remark*].
 —Then would I build me up a place of pleasure
 For the sweet moments of a prince's leisure.
 Wood, hill, and valley, lawn, and meadow ground
 Are all within the sumptuous garden's bound.
 By verdant walls the long strait pathways drawn
 Through formal shades to reach the velvet lawn ;
 Cascades that roll with regulated shock
 In channels carved from rock to answering rock ;
 Water, in all diversity of dyes,
 Taught artificially to fall and rise,
 A stately column soars, and, breaking, sheds
 Swift down the sides thin, tiny, tinkling threads.
 Then would I have, in many a close recess,
 Lodges, with ladies there, all loveliness !
 Pass countless hours—and let no care intrude—
 In that delicious social solitude.
 Ladies, do you mark me ?—*ladies.* Womankind
 Comes always as a plural to my mind.

Faust. Degenerate—modern—base !—Abandon all
 That makes life life ?—A vile Sardanapal !

Meph. Could but a man make out what you're about,
 It must be something quite sublime, no doubt.
 You have of late been wandering through the air—
 Near the moon. Don't you wish that you were there ?

Faust [*earnestly*]. No, doubtless, no. Our own earth is
 a place
 That for bold enterprise gives ample space.
 Something may still be done that in the event
 Will waken in the world astonishment.

Within me lives a power that must succeed
In earnest, active, energetic deed.

Meph. Aye, and the Fame that such achievement wins !
This comes of communing with heroines.

Faust. Dominion, Power, Possession, is my aim ;
The Fact is all—an idle breath the Fame !

Meph. Yet Poets will arise to sing thy story,
Tell times to come thy grandeur and thy glory,
With folly kindling folly.

Faust. What know you
Of this or anything that Man desires ?
Thy nature, adverse, cross-grained, bitter, sharp,
What can it do but criticise and carp ?
How can it know what Man—true Man—requires ?

Meph. Well, have your will and way. I give up mine.
Communicate this notable design.

Faust [*with earnestness*]. I had been gazing on the
mighty sea,
That, tower on tower, swelled up exultingly ;
Then did it fall, and its wide waves expand ;
As laying siege to yon flat breadth of strand.
Sickness of heart I felt. Resentment strong,
Keen indignation at imagined wrong,
The pang, that to behold oppression gives
To freedom's instinct that within us lives,
Wrath at the usurpation of the wave,
And sympathy with what it would enslave,
Came o'er my spirit ; and the frenzied mood
Worked like a fever through my human blood.
"Can it be chance ?" I said. "Can it be chance ?"
I said, and eyed the waves with sharper glance.
A moment motionless, then, from the goal,
Their late-won conquest, back the recreants roll.
The hour returns ; again begins their play.

Meph. [*to the audience*]. 'Tis nothing new ; I've seen
them every day
A hundred thousand years roll the same way.

Faust [*continues vehemently*]. On creep they hither, here
at all points press ;
Barren themselves, and spreading barrenness.

It swells, and spreads, and rolls, and spends its strength
O'er the repulsive coast-line's desert length.

Imperious wave o'er wave in power moves on,
Lords it awhile—retreats—and nothing's done.
In anguish and despair my mind resents
This waste power of the lawless elements.
Here with a strife to make my spirit ascend
Above itself. From these their prey to rend,
Here to win conquests, were a victory true.
Here would I combat, these would I subdue !

And it is possible ; at full flood still
The wave bends, yields, and winds round every hill.
Even in its hour of most imperious will,
Before each little sand-heap, lo ! it shrinks,
And into any tiny hollow sinks.

This when I saw, a sudden project ran
Crossing my brain, and plan came after plan.
Methought it were a joyous thing, could we
Force from the shore the domineering sea ;
To narrower bounds the moist expanse restrain,
And crush far off into itself the main.
From step to step I've thought out the design ;
This is my wish, to further it be thine !

[Drums are heard from behind on the right]

Meph. How easy 'tis !—Hear you the drums afar ?

Faust. What ?—war ? The prudent has no love for war.

Meph. Why, war or peace, the prudent man still sees
In all that comes but opportunities.
We plan, watch, catch each favouring chance, and, now,
Such smiles, or never—Faust, seize it thou !

Faust. Speak out at once ; spare me this riddling stuff.

Meph. I saw it long ago, and plain enough.
The kind good Emperor is perplexed with care.
You know him. You remember when we were
Amusing him. Into his hand we played
False riches ; and the show of riches made
All seem as nothing to him. The effect
Was self-indulgence, indolence, neglect.
Young to the throne he came, and he thought good
To reason 'gainst all reason, and conclude
That 'twas not out and out impossible

But Power and Pleasure might together dwell ;
And thus, that it was his prerogative
To rule a kingdom and at ease to live.

Faust. A grievous error. None can both unite.
To rule must be the ruler's sole delight.
If high resolves and fixed his bosom fill,
Yet none may look into that sovereign will.
Scarce to the trustiest breathes he his intent
In the close ear : accomplished, the event
Startles the world into astonishment.
The ruler's power still rests on what first made
Man's power to rule. Indulgences degrade.
Ruler o'er men must never cease to be
Man highest, worthiest.

Meph. No such man is he.
Oh ! what a life of luxury was his !
With the realm falling by no slow degrees
To anarchy, still the prince takes his ease.
Everywhere, high and low, each warred with other ;
'Twas brother plundering, chasing, slaughtering brother.
Castles with castles, towns with towns pursued,
And guilds with nobles—an eternal feud.
Chapter and churchman against bishop rose ;
Men looked but on each other and were foes.
Merchants and travellers at the very gates
Of cities lost, and none to tell their fates.
Life—to such daring heights had rapine gone—
Was but defensive war. So things moved on.

Faust. Say you moved on ? They staggered, limped,
fell, rose,

And stumbled and rolled helpless down. Sad close !

Meph. And such a state of things need no one blame.
Each had his chance of winning in the game ;
Each wished to be a somebody, and each
The object of his wishes now might reach.
Boys would be men, and sober men went mad.
At last the thing was felt to be too bad :
The better classes, that, too long inert
Had slumbered, rose this evil to avert,
Determined that such state of things should cease ;
Let him be Lord, they say, who gives us Peace.
The Emperor cannot, will not. Choose we then
A ruler. Let another Emperor reign,

Make each man's rights secure, and animate,
 As with a better soul, the sinking State,
 Till renovated Earth see blessings spread
 From land to land, and Peace with Justice wed.

Faust. This has a priestlike twang.

Meph. Aye, priests they were ;
 The well-fed belly made they their prime care.
 Aye—insurrection was their interest.
 The people rose, the priests the rising blest ;
 And now our Emperor—our old friend whom
 We so amused and rendered happy—is come,
 Perhaps, to his last battle-field.

Faust. I grieve
 For him—so good, so open-hearted.

Meph. We have
 An eye to him. While there is life there is
 Hope. But first let us get him out of this.
 He is caught and caged here in the narrow valley.
 Saved once is saved for ever. My advice
 Is, never give up. Who knows what on the dice—
 Turn but the luck, and friends around him rally.

*[They ascend the middle range of mountains, and view
 the arrangement of the army in the valley. Trumpets
 and warlike music from below]*

Meph. Well chosen the position is.
 We join. The victory is his.

Faust. We ?—join ?—What there to do ?—Repeat
 Illusion ? Sleight of hand ? Deceit ?

Meph. Aye—stratagems of war to gain
 A battle and your ends obtain.
 Be wide awake. You save his throne
 And kingdom for the Emperor.
 Kneel down, are granted as your own,
 In feudal right, the boundless shore.

Faust. You have seen much in your time.—Win a battle
 now.

Meph. No ; you will. Generalissimo art thou
 On this occasion.

Faust. I command ? You flatter.
 Command ? Why, I know nothing of the matter—
 Am in the art of war a very novice.

Meph. Not the worse General. Assume the office ;
 Let the Staff think for you, and the General

Is safe. For some short time back, I could snuff
 War in the wind, and saw what must befall.
 I've formed a military council of
 The original elemental mountain stuff
 Of the primitive mountain-man, in the unmixed power
 Of his rude natural self. Fortunate he,
 Who scrapes together, in a lucky hour,
 Such customers!

Faust. But who are those I see
 Yonder, and bearing arms? Thou hast, I trow,
 Roused all the mountaineers up?

Meph. Not quite so;
 But in the manner of Herr Peter Squence,
 Of all the rubbish there the quintessence.

Enter "THE THREE MIGHTY MEN," MEPHISTOPHELES'
Bullies

Meph. My fellows now are drawing near—in age, arms,
 clothing
 Differing—the rascals are alike in nothing;—
 And, though I say it, who should not have said it,
 They are the very boys to do me credit.
 [*To the audience*]. There's not a child on earth but
 loves

Gorget, and greaves, and gauntlet-gloves;
 And though the rags be allegorical,
 Yet will they be the better liked by all.

Bully [*a youth, gaily dressed, lightly armed*].
 Look straight into my eyes;—aye, if you dare!
 Into your jaws, my lad, I thrust my fist;
 And if you run away, 'tis I that twist
 My hand into the flying coward's hair.

Havequick [*a man, well-armed, richly dressed*].
 In blows and bluster time's but thrown away—
 Plunder's the word, and Pillage. Beg, steal, borrow.
 I make my own of all I find to-day,
 And for a fresh instalment call to-morrow.

Holdfast [*an old man, in armour, otherwise naked*].
 But little is in that way won—
 "Easily got, easily gone!"
 To take's not bad; but to hold fast
 Is the one way to make it last.

The old man's hand is very slow
 What it once clutches to let go ;
 And my advice is, getting all you can,
 Give it to keep for you to the old man.

[*All descend to lower ground*]

II

ON THE HEADLAND

*Drums and warlike music from beneath. The EMPEROR'S
 tent*

EMPEROR. GENERAL IN COMMAND. LIFE-GUARDSMEN

General. Placed as we were, we could not risk attack :
 Our plan of leading the whole army back
 To this convenient ground was duly weighed.
 I have good hope the choice will turn out well.

Emperor. That's as it may be. The event will tell.
 But I dislike this yielding—this half flight.

Gen. Prince, only cast your eyes upon the right.
 Could we idealise the thought of war,
 This would appear the very station for
 Our army. Sloping hills, to hostile powers
 A check ; and a protecting wall to ours ;
 Half by the undulating plain concealed.—
 No cavalry will venture up that field.

Emp. I can but praise. Along that gentle slope
 Our soldiers' genius will have ample scope.

Gen. In front on the flat meadows see you there
 Our phalanx burning for the fight ? The gleam
 Of pikes and lances glimmers through the air,
 In sunlight o'er the morning's breezy steam.
 Now glooms the mighty square in the wavering light
 Of the fresh dawn ; thousands there all aglow
 For the coming action ! Prince, this is a sight
 The power of multitudes in mass to show ;
 On them I reckon with no doubtful hope,
 The enemy's lines to scatter and break up.

Emp. Never before was it my chance to see

The brilliant sight : thus ranged, it seems to me,
The army's strength must more than doubled be.

Gen. Sire, of our left I need say nothing now ;
Stout heroes occupy the steep crag's brow,
And bright with gleaming arms the rocky pile
Guards the close entrance of the deep defile.
There will the foe seek first to force their way.
—Raw in the bloody game of battle they,
And, broken there, will fall an easy prey.

Emp. There march my lying kinsfolk ! There they go !
See, uncles, cousins, brothers, join the foe.
In arms against us ;—they, who robbed the throne
Of everything ; made everything their own ;
Deprived, encroaching more and more each hour,
The Crown of honour, and the Sword of power.
Their discord made the kingdom desolate ;
Their union is a plot against the State.
The wavering crowd, unknowing right or wrong,
Where the stream hurries them are borne along.

Gen. A faithful man, for information sent,
Runs down the rocks—I trust for good event.

First Spy. Safely went we up the country,
Safely back have made our way,
And but little favourable
Of our mission can we say.
Many proffered thee allegiance,
But they added, things were then
Such, that, for their own protection,
They must keep at home their men.

Emp. Self-seekers, they ! the doctrine of that sect
Rests not on friendship, gratitude, respect.
A neighbour's house on fire, self-interest
Some danger to their own might well suggest.

Gen. The second comes. He moves down heavily,
Every limb shaking—weary man is he.

Second Spy. Unarranged and undirected
First we found the outbreak's course—
On a sudden a new Emperor
Starts up—leads the rebel force.
Now 'tis plan and pre-arrangement—
Crowds behind his banner sweep,
And their leader they all follow—
Follow, as sheep follows sheep.

Emp. He comes, this rival Emperor! Welcome be
 His coming!—this is glorious gain for me.
 Now for the first time am I Emperor!
 Never till now was life worth living for!
 Only as soldier armed I breast and brow—
 Buckler and helm have higher purpose now:
 At every fête, however bright and fair,
 One thing I missed—the danger absent there.
 You said, “With the safe ring-game be content;”
 My blood leaped—I breathed lance and tournament.
 Had you not held me back from arms, ’twere mine
 Ere now in high heroic deeds to shine.
 When mirrored in the realm of fire I stood,
 What self-reliance then! what fortitude!
 Against me pressed the elemental glow—
 A show, in seeming, but a glorious show—
 In turbid dreams of fame and victory won
 I have lived too long. Be, what I dreamed of, done!
 [Heralds are sent with a challenge to the Rival
 EMPEROR

Enter FAUST (in armour, with half-closed helmet). The
“THREE MIGHTY MEN,” armed and clothed as before
described

Faust. We come, I trust unblamed. Precaution here
 Can do no harm, though needless it appear.
 A thoughtful and imaginative race
 High in the mountains have their dwelling-place,
 And secrets strange the rocks to them have shown,
 By Nature traced in cyphers of her own.
 Spirits, that long have left the lowlands, still
 Cling even more fondly to the lonely hill.
 ’Mong labyrinthine chasms, where in rich wreaths
 Of noble gas metallic fragrance breathes,
 In silence there, they sort, and sift, and sever,
 Combine, create, and seek the new for ever.
 With soft and silent hand of gentlest power
 —The strength serene of mind’s creative hour—
 Build swiftly up transparent shapes, and see
 In crystal and its calm eternity,
 As in a waveless mirror, imaged forth
 The stirrings of the agitated earth.

Emp. This have I heard, and can suppose to be,
But of what moment is it, friend, to me ?

Faust. The Norcian necromancer guards thee now,
In him a fast and faithful friend hast thou.
Have you no recollection of the day
When 'mid the brush-wood crackling near, he lay,
And tongues of fire were panting for their prey ?
Round the poor Sabine dry twigs heaped, and fixed
Between them, sulphur-rods and pitch were mixed.
Hope none in man, or god, or devil, remains—
You, with your mandate, burst the burning chains.
This was at Rome, and pledged since then to thee,
No other thought, no other care hath he.
He watches still the safety of thy throne :
Explores the stars, the depths, for thee alone.
For this he bade us hither speed. Strange might
Dwells in the mountains. Nature infinite
Works there is all in all, fearless and free.
This is what stupid priests call sorcery !

Emp. On festal day, when to the palace proud,
Guest pours on guest, and courtiers courtiers crowd,
We greet with joy the thousands that pour in,
Smiles round them to diffuse and smiles to win ;
But higher welcome give we to the brave
Who, when above us ominously wave
The scales of Destiny, and ills impend,
In that disastrous twilight comes—a friend.
Yet, in this lofty moment, be implored,
Draw back the strong hand from the eager sword :
The awful moment, the dread *now* revere,
For or against me arming thousands here.
Man's self is man, and his be crown and throne,
Whose title is by higher prowess shown ;
And be the spectre that defying stands,
Calls himself "Emperor," "Liege Lord of our Lands,"
"Duke of the Army," and would seize our crown,
With my own hand back to his hell thrust down !

Faust. Great though the gain were, glorious though the
strife,
It is not for the Prince to peril life.
Shines not the helm with crest and plumage gay ?
It guards the head, the spirit's strength, and stay.
What without head were limbs ? Should it repose,

They sink in languor down and with it doze ;
If it be wounded, they will sympathize ;
Restore its health, and they in vigour rise ;
The arm's strong right the arm is swift to wield,
And lifts to screen the skull a ready shield ;
Well doth the eager sword its duty know,
Wards strongly off, and then returns the blow ;
The foot is happy too to aid the head,
And, stamping on his neck, treads down the dead.

Emp. You speak my passionate mind ; so would I
treat

His proud head, trampling it beneath my feet.

[*HERALDS, who have been sent with the EMPEROR'S
challenge to the Rival EMPEROR, return*

Her. Little profit, less of honour,
Did you from our mission gain ;
They received your noble challenge
With derision and disdain.

“ Like the valley's feeble echo,
Faint your Emperor's voice of power ;
But in village tales remembered,
‘ There was once an emperor.’ ”

Faust [*to the EMPEROR*]. Beside thee stands a firm and
faithful host,

And what has happened is what they wished most.
The foe draws near ; with burning ardour, thine
Wait but the word for onset. Give the sign—
Now is the fortunate moment.

Emp. [*to the GENERAL*]. To command
I yield all claim, and, Prince, into thy hand
That duty do I give.

Gen. Then, march on, right !
The foeman's left, that now ascends the hill,
Before our young men's loyal ardour will
Be soon dashed back in ignominious flight.

Faust [*pointing to the Mighty Man on the right*].
Permit this merry fellow, then,
To mix himself among your men ;
His spirit its own zeal will give
To all your soldiers, in them live.

Bully [*coming forward*]. If they dare to look at me with
face unabashed,
Their cheeks shall be shattered, their jawbones be smashed:

The scoundrel that turns his back to escape,
Shall have head and scalp dangling down neck and down
nape.

[Sings]. "Like me if thy soldiers the enemy drub,
As I dash on in fury with sabre and club,
Man by man shall they fall to the ground :
Man by man in their own blood drowned ! " [Exit

Gen. The phalanx of the centre follow slow !
And in full force deliberate meet the foe !
—Already to the right there's shrinking back,
Their plan is all deranged by our attack.

Faust [pointing to the middle one].
Permit this man of mine, too, to obey
Your orders ; and work with you through the day.

Havequick [comes forward, singing out].
"In the Emperor's army true soldier is Courage,
And helpers good are Plunder and Forage.
Let Forage and Plunder and Courage too
Keep the mock Emperor's tent in view !
We'll strip it clean when the rascal's gone ;
I'll head the phalanx and lead it on."

Speedbooty [sutler-woman, sidling up to HAVEQUICK].
He with me did never wive—
For this we two the fonder thrive.
[Sings]. "The harvest-crop is heavy and ripe,
We gather it in, and grasp and gripe.
Woman works well in rapine and ravage,
For her eye is fierce and her heart is savage.
Win the day, and to woman abandon
Everything that she can lay hand on ! "

[Exeunt both

Gen. Upon our left, as I expected,
Their right is in full force directed.
But man to man, oh ! with what rage
Among the rocks they now engage,
To win the pass, and to defend.

Faust [beckons to the Mighty Man on the left].
Sir, may I ask you to attend
To this man ?—see his powerful arm :
Add strength to strength. 'Twill do no harm.

Holdfast. For the left wing take thou no care—
'Tis safe enough while I am there.
[Sings]. "To hold his own let the old man alone : "

What he has he is sure to keep for ever.
 Once in his clutch, be it little or much,
 Not the lightning-flash from his hand can sever." [*Exit*
Meph. [coming from above]. Leaning forward in the distance,

From each jagged rocky gorge,
 Weaponed men for bold resistance,
 Hither seem their way to urge.
 Swords they wield; and helm and shield,
 Behind us frown a dense dead wall:
 All waiting for the wink of the director
 Upon the foe to fall.

[*Aside, to the knowing ones*

Now, as to where they come from, one and all,
 Ask me no questions, and—Yet 'twere as well you
 Knew it. Then keep the secret, and I'll tell you.
 I have lost no time in the matter. I have taken
 My officers from armour-halls forsaken,
 Have cleaned out corridors and chambers dusty
 Of their old iron warriors dim and rusty,
 Where—horse and foot—in the proud attitude
 Of rulers, lording it o'er earth, they stood.
 Once were they knights, kings, emperors in their mail-shells,

And now are nothing more than empty snail-shells.
 I'll tell you another secret. Many a spectre
 Hath got into these spoils of old-world strife,
 Acting the mediæval to the life.

Some tiny devil-fry have for the nonce
 Stuck themselves in—I hope 'twill do for once.

[*Aloud*]. Hark! how they clink and clatter—with what
 pother

The tin-plates dash, clash, crash on one another!
 Banners round banner-staffs are flapping free,
 That for the air of earth had longed impatiently.
 Look well on them—would it not seem to be,
 A people of old-times in war-array,
 Uprisen to mingle in this modern fray?

[*Fearful trumpet-sounds from above; the enemy waver*

Faust. The whole horizon darkles,
 Save for a red and boding light
 Portentously that sparkles.
 Stained as with blood are sword and spear;

And wood, and rock, and atmosphere,
And heaven, and earth, are mingling in the fight.

Meph. The right flank's holding firm: the giant frame
Of the Bully there works out his bloody game.

Emp. I saw *one* arm uplifted; as I gazed
Twelve were distinctly by one impulse raised.
This cannot sure be natural or right?

Faust. Think of the cloud-streaks floating by the sea,
In dawnlight, on the coasts of Sicily;
Where mists peculiar give to all men's sight,
Raised midway above earth, and mirrored bright
—Strange apparition—cities to and fro
Waving, and gardens rising, sinking there,
As picture after picture breaks the air.

Emp. The thing looks doubtful and suspicious, though.
See you not lightnings from the spear-tops play?
And of our phalanx, how on every lance,
Along its bright edge flamelets glide and glance?
Spirits, I fear.

Faust. Sire! suffer me to say,
Of spirit-natures—natures passed away—
You see the trace. The Dioscuri here,
Familiar friends, to every seaman dear,
Propitious meteors, a last parting ray
Flash ere they vanish. These are friendly gleams.

Emp. But why should I be thus among the dreams
Of guardian Nature?—have for my own share
This gathering of all things odd and rare?
To whom is all this due?

Meph. To him alone,
The mighty Master—him, who to his own
Prefers thy safety—bears thee in his heart;
His is true gratitude, and his the art
That bids the marvels of all Nature rise,
To pour confusion on thy enemies.

Emp. [*thoughtfully*]. They led me forth in state—and
round me pressed
Crowds in congratulation and applause.
I now was something, and I wished to test
To my own self the something that I was;
And so it happened, without much thought, that there
I chose to exert my high prerogative,
And bade on that white beard the cool fresh air

To breathe once more—in mercy bade him live.
Thus for the priests I spoiled their holiday,
And little love since then for me have they.
And—can it be, that after many a year
Fruits of such accidental act appear?

Faust. The impulse of a generous breast
In kind act unawares expressed
Brings rich reward of interest.
Look up to the sky. If rightly I divine,
He sends us an intelligible sign.

Emp. An Eagle sweeps through heaven's blue height :
A threatening Griffin dogs his flight.

Faust. Attend! the sign is favourable.

Seen in the light of the Ideal,

The Griffin monster is—a fable ;

Thy type—the royal bird—is real.

Emp. Now, in widespread circles see them,

In the air wheel round and round :

Darting now at one another,

Head and neck, and breast, they wound.

Faust. Rascal Griffin! see him! hear him,

Tugged and torn, with wail and shriek,

Now to save his lion-carcass,

The high tree-top's refuge seek.

Emp. Would all were, as I behold it

In this symbol strange unfolded !

Meph. [*towards the right*]. To our strokes, poured thick
and fast,

Must the foeman yield at last ;

In the wavering, doubtful fight,

Down they press upon their right,

And their army's left the foes,

Weak and straggling, thus expose.

See! its point our phalanx bring

To the right, and on the wing

Pour its lightnings. Now like ocean

Tossed with storm, both hosts rage on—

Wilder is the strife of armies.

Well devised our plan of battle !

We the victory have won !

Emp. [*to FAUST on the left*]. Are we not in danger yonder ?

Look ! must not the pass be taken ?
 No stones flying to defend it.
 The crags below are now ascended,
 And the rocks above forsaken.
 See the foe, a solid mass,
 Nearer, ever nearer, pressing !
 Now, methinks, they force the pass.

Sad results of arts unholy !
 Oh this magic hath no blessing !

[Pause. Two ravens appear

Meph. My two ravens come to me !
 What may now their message be ?
 I fear me, it goes ill with us.

Emp. Loathsome birds ! still ominous
 Of evil ! Wherefore do they steer
 With black sails hither, from the shock
 Of warring men on yonder rock ?
 —Evil-boding birds ! Why here ?

Meph. [to the RAVENS]. Come to me nearer, yet more
 near ;

Come, take your seats, one at each ear ;
 Whom you protect need feel no fear—
 Your counsel is so shrewd and clear ;
 And the event is still what you predict.

Faust [to the EMPEROR]. Have you not heard of doves
 that come

From far lands to their brood, their home ?
 Like them, our ravens here. No doubt
 There is a difference. The dove
 Brings embassies of peace and love.
 War has its ravens to send out.

Meph. And now the message tells of our distress.
 See round the rampart rock how foemen press !
 The heights are theirs ! and, could they gain
 The pass, to guard the rock were vain.

Emp. So I am trapped by you at last,
 Caught in the net around me cast ;
 I shuddered from the hour you came.

Meph. Courage, we yet may win the game—
 It is not yet played out : the luck
 May turn—have patience—keep up pluck.

The hardest tug is just before
 The moment that the fight is o'er.
 I've trusty messengers to send
 For aid on which we may depend ;
 Give me your order for it, and
 Command me that I may command.

Gen. [*who has in the meantime come up*]. You have allied
 yourself with these strange men ;
 Through the whole time it has been giving me pain.
 No lasting good comes of these juggling tricks ;
 I don't see why I should at this stage mix
 Myself up with them—I see nothing, in
 Which I could now aid. You let them begin
 The battle ; they may end it. I give back
 The staff to you.

Emp. Keep it for better hours,
 That fortune may have yet in store for us.
 I shudder, thinking of the villainous
 Fellow, and his intimacy with those black
 Foul carrion birds, his privy counsellors.
 [*To MEPHISTOPHELES*]. Give you the baton ? that would
 scarcely do !—

For it, I fancy, you're not just the man ;
 But make your orders. Do the best you can
 For us. My whole dependence is on you.

[*Exit with GENERAL*]

MEPHISTOPHELES. FAUST

Mephistopheles. The stupid piece of stick !—much good
 may it do him,
 Give power and honour and protection to him !
 Something of a cris-cross was on the baton,
 But little luck 'twould bring to us with that on.

Faust. What is to do ?

Meph. Just nothing. All is done.

[*Addresses the Ravens*]. Swart serviceable cousins, good at
 need,

To the great lake among the mountains speed !
 Greet the Undines in their solitudes,
 And beg from them a show of phantom floods
 Perfect illusion this. Through female art
 What is, from what makes it so seem, they part.

How they do this is difficult to tell—

Women such secrets as they wish, keep well ! [Pause

Faust. Why, our black friends, to judge by the event,

Can flatter ladies to their hearts' content ;
Your cousins must have more than courtier's skill,
So soon to win the women to their will.

Already, see ! 'tis dripping, drizzling down,
And now from many a tall rock's dry bald crown,
The full free waters rapidly gush out.
All's over with their victory, not a doubt.

Meph. Strange greeting this ! What will come next ?
The boldest climbers are perplexed.

Faust. Already gurgling hill-top springs unite
With the strong rush of waters from below.
Now swell they to a river bold and bright,
Now, o'er the smooth rock spread in widening flow,
Race down its sides in thousand threads of light :
Precipitated thence with foam and flash,
From ledge to ledge into the valley dash.
Where now the hero's strength ? where shield or
helm ?

Down come the waters wild, o'erpower, o'erwhelm.
Even I—I cannot see untterrified
The inundation spreading far and wide.

Meph. I can see none of these same water-lies,
They are deceptions but for human eyes.

I am amused at the confusion
Rising from a mere illusion—

Idiots rushing helter-skelter,
Deeming waves above them welter :
From a death by water shrinking,
Kicking, plunging, shrieking, sinking.
Hear them snorting, puffing, blowing !—
All is up with them—they're going.

A droll mistake—men absolutely drowned,
Or swimming hard for life, on the dry ground.

[*The Ravens return*

To the high Master I will sound your praise.
Now for the crowning feat—come, no delays !
Now—now for our last master-stroke. Off with ye
To the dwarf-people—off to the far smithy,
Where with unwearied toil 'mong mines unknown, *

They pound to sparkling glitter steel or stone.
 Some of their fire we want—coax, chaffer, chatter,
 Get it—if got, how got is little matter.
 Fire that will glitter, blaze, and run, and scatter—
 Fire such as earth has seldom seen or can see—
 Fire such as I have felt and men may fancy.

Mere lightning-flashes no doubt are
 Seen often in the sky afar.
 The sparkle of a shooting star
 May chance on any summer night ;
 But stars that hiss on the damp ground,
 Lightnings on tangled bushes found,
 Are sure no common sight.

[*Exeunt Ravens*

[*All is done as described.*]

Meph. Darkness thick upon the foemen—
 Wandering fires of doubtful omen—
 Steps, that know not where to light,
 In the misdirecting night—
 Lightning flashes everywhere
 Blinding with their sudden glare.
 So far the effect is marvellously fine,
 And now for music in the terror-line.

Faust. The hollow spoils of the old armorics
 Are all alive and active in the breeze.
 There they go bang,
 Clatter and clang.
 Clash of diabolic glee,
 Dissonant exceedingly.

Meph. Now that they are at it, see if it be feasible
 To stop 'em ! Now for knightly knocks and
 blows !

Together in right earnest now they close.
 The fights of the old glorious days renewed :
 Gauntlets and steel sheaths for the shins
 Fighting like Guelphs and Ghibellines
 In the eternal unsubduing feud,
 Hereditary—unappeasable.

At every devil's-festival
 Works Party-spirit best of all.
 The never-ending Hate, that still begins,
 Heard o'er war-shout, rout and rally—

Harsh, malignant, sharp, satanic,
Scattering terror, horror, panic,
Down the hill-slope—through the valley.

*[War tumult in the orchestra—at last passing
into clear military music]*

III

THE RIVAL EMPEROR'S TENT

THRONE. RICH FURNITURE

HAVEQUICK. SPEEDBOOTY

Speedbooty. We're first then from the field of fight.

Hav. Aye, swift as any raven's flight.

Speed. What treasure-heaps are here to win!

Where shall we finish? where begin?

Hav. There's so much everywhere to catch;

I know not what I first shall snatch.

Speed. This tapestry will match me quite,

My bed's so cold and hard at night.

Hav. A steel club hanging from the shelf.

—I've long been wishing one myself.

Speed. A long red robe with golden seams!

—Like one I've often seen in dreams.

Hav. *[taking the weapon which he refers to].*

With this a man's business soon is done—

Knock him down dead—and then move on

You've been picking up so much

Mere rags! how could you think of such?

—Throw all this rubbish out again;

Have at the pay-chest of the men!

Speed. It is too heavy; I have got

No strength to lift it from the spot.

Hav. Duck down there—lose no time—I'll pack

And bundle it upon your back.

Speed. What pain! I hear my sinews crack;

The heavy load will break my back.

[The chest falls and springs open]

Hav. See there! a heap of red gold lies—

Swift to it! sweep away the prize.

Speed. [*stoops down*]. Into my lap, aye! throw it swift.

With what we've got we'll make a shift.

Hav. Now you've enough—away with you!

[*SPEEDBOOTY stands up*

Your apron's torn—the coins drop through.

Where'er you go, and where you stand,

You're sowing gold-seed o'er the land.

Enter GUARDSMEN of the Emperor

Guardsmen. What! here upon this holy ground!

Pillaging Caesar's treasure found!

Hav. We lavished life and limb in fight.

To share the booty is our right;

'Tis prize of war—our custom'd due—

Remember, we are soldiers too.

Guar. Soldiers!—scarce so in our belief.

Soldiers! what, soldier too and thief!

None near our Emperor's person dear,

But honest soldiers suffered here!

Hav. Pillage with us may be the name—

Yours, contribution—'tis the same;

On others' means alike we live,

'Tis all one trade—'tis "give," still "give."

[*To SPEEDBOOTY*]. Off with your booty!—off—keep clear

Of these folks—we've no welcome here.

[*Exeunt HAVEQUICK and SPEEDBOOTY*

1st Guar. You did not hit him going out:

The rascal! What were you about?

2nd Guar. I do not know—all strength forsook

My arm; so spectral was their look.

3rd Guar. A something bad came o'er my sight;

It glimmered—I saw nothing right.

4th Guar. For my part, I do not know what

To say—the whole day was so hot.

Such clinging heat, so terrible:

And this one stood, and that one fell.

On groped we, hitting at the foe,

A man was down at every blow.

My ear hummed, hissed, whizzed, and there was

Before my eyes a wavering gauze.

And on it went; and here are we,

And know not how it came to be.

[*Exeunt*

EMPEROR. PRINCES. CHANCELLOR

Enter the EMPEROR and four PRINCES

Emp. Well, be it as it may be, then the day at last is ours,
 In hurried flight the scattered foe along the lowland pours.
 Here stands the traitor's empty throne, with tapestry
 hung round ;
 The Rival Emperor's treasure see, where it usurps the
 ground.
 And here in honoured pomp we stand, guarded by our
 own hands,
 The Emperor, waiting to receive the envoys of his lands.
 From all sides happy tidings come—the people's discords
 cease,
 Everywhere exultation is—the Empire all at peace.
 And if it be that in our aid the arts of magic wrought,
 Yet we it was, and only we, in very truth that fought.
 The chances of the hour must still in battle's scale be
 thrown ;
 From heaven there falls a shower of blood, from heaven
 a meteor-stone—
 Strange sounds from rocky caverns rise. Our swelling
 hearts rejoice.
 The enemy is smit with fear by that portentous voice.
 The conquered lasting scorn abides ; the happy victor
 boasts,
 And praises in his hour of pride the favouring God of
 hosts ;
 All voices now chime in with him, there needs no mandate
 —“ Lord,
 We give Thee thanks, we praise Thee,” is from thousand
 throats outpoured.
 Then comes, alas ! and not till then, the better hour apart,
 When, all alone, the conqueror looks in on his own heart.
 A youthful prince will waste his day, misled by mirth
 and power—
 Years come, and then we feel the deep importance of the
 hour.
 Therefore, delaying not the act, will I now bind me down,
 With you four worthies, evermore for household, court,
 and crown.

[*To the first*]. The army's well-placed station, Prince, hath tested well thy skill,

And, in the crisis of the day, thine was the guiding will ;
Work, therefore, as befits the time, when peace is now restored.

Hereditary Marshal, rise—to thee I give the sword.

Hereditary Marshal. Now in the centre of the realm the army's faith is shown,

Soon at the Empire's bounds to guard thy person and thy throne.

When thy paternal town is thronged at splendid festival,
Then be it granted me to range the banquet in the hall.
Before thee bear I the bright sword, or hold it up beside
Thy princely steps—the bright sword still in peace or war
thy pride !

Emp. [*to the second*]. Thou who high courtesy with valour dost unite,

High Chamberlain be thou—the duties are not light.

First be thou of all the servants of the household—over all :

Sorry servants do I find them, evermore in strife and brawl.

Now in this high post of honour let thy fair example teach
Honour meet to lord and subject—courtesy to all and each.

High Chamberlain. Thy high thought to express in act,
and show with fitting grace

Distinction ever to the best—forbearance to the base ;
Without one touch of seeming show or shadow of disguise—
Type of the Emperor's dignity to move in all men's eyes,
The heart within at peace, and thus diffusing its own calm,
And Cæsar's presence, who approves and knows me as I am—

High boon is this ; but on bold wing should Fancy, far away,

Move onward to that feast of feasts, that long-expected day :

When thou goest to the table, the lordly cwer of gold
I reach to thee—and in that hour for thee the rings I hold,
When the imperial hand would seek refreshment and delight,

Rejoicing in the water, as I gladden in thy sight.

Emp. Too serious cares unfit me now for all festivity ;
But to begin with cheerfulness is best—so let it be.

[*To the third*]. Thee I choose as the Chief Butler, and from henceforth unto thee,
Chase, and poultry-yard, and homestead, farm, and farm-yard subject be,
To myself the choice reserving of such dish as I love best ;
As each month in its succession brings them. See them fitly drest.

Chief Butler. Fasting strict be mine for ever, till before my lord is placed,
Each month, in its due succession still, the dish that meets his taste.
All whose service is in kitchen shall with me in union here,
Still anticipate the seasons—make the distant climate near ;
But thy simple tastes are better pleased by meats that strengthening are,
Than by those before their season forced, or hither brought from far.

Emp. [*to the fourth*]. As ordering of feasts must now our only topic be,
Young hero, into Cupbearer I metamorphose thee.
Chief Cupbearer from this day forth, an anxious duty thine,
That richly stored our cellar be with best of generous wine ;
But thine own course in festive hour still temperately steer,
Nor tempted be to overstep the bounds of sober cheer.

Cupbearer. Youth, Prince—if you in youth full confidence repose—
To manhood's strength and stature in a moment grows ;
And such great change shall this high office work in me,
To bear me meetly when that feast of crowning joy shall be.
Then shall the Emperor's buffet shine with silver and with gold,
From cups and vases glittering there in splendour manifold ;
But for thyself shall I select the brightest cup and best :
The Venice glass that virtue hath unknown to all the rest.
Joy lurks in the bright Venice glass that in the wine creates
A finer flavour ; thus it cheers and not inebriates.
In such a treasure as this cup one may too much confide :
Prince ! your own temperance is still a safer guard and guide.

Emp. These gifts, in seriousness conferred, the Emperor's word makes sure ;

Yet written witness should there be, and formal signature.

And lo! for this the fitting man comes at the hour most fit.

[*Addresses the ARCHBISHOP, who enters.*

To the supporting keystone when the vaulted arch is knit,

The builder then hath framed his work for ages infinite.
Thou seest these princes four; with them our solemn compact made

Foundation firm of governance for House and Court has laid;

But what the Empire as a whole concerns, and thus demands

Counsel of weight, ye princely five, I place it in your hands,
Possession of far-spreading lands should still your rank evince:

Land is—it ought to be—one great distinction of a prince;
Therefore of your dominions now do I enlarge the bounds,
And of these traitors give to you the confiscated grounds;
To you, my faithful friends, these lands in full and free domain,

I give and grant, with ample power to hold and to maintain,

By purchase to extend, or by barter to increase,

All right of their old owners for evermore to cease.

And o'er the lands I give to-day, and that already yours,

The fullest rights of sovereignty this grant to you secures;

—You to decide, in courts of law, such pleas as may arise;

From your tribunal no appeal to other judgment lies.

With tribute, taxes, tithes, and toll, safe-conduct, duty-wine,

Mintage, and salt, and royalties of mountain and of mine.

I have raised you, that my gratitude may be to all men shown,

In rank next to the majesty of the imperial throne.

Arch. I, in the name of all, give deep-felt thanks to thee.

Thou strengthenest us, and thus thyself wilt henceforth stronger be.

Emp. To you, five princes, higher honours yet I give.

I live, and for my kingdom's sake still should I wish to live!

Yet are there feelings linked with the far past,

That their own sadness on the spirit cast:

The chain of my high ancestors passed from the earth, to whom

I pass from the brisk stir of life, brings thoughts that have their gloom.

I, too, must part from you, my friends, and when, in His good hour,

I shall have gone, then be it yours to name the emperor :
On the high altar raise him up, there crowned in solemn form ;

And thus in perfect peace shall end, what heretofore was storm.

Arch. [*as CHANCELLOR*]. With lonely gesture, and with hearts where proud feelings have birth,
Bending before thee princes stand, the mightiest of the earth.

As long as the true blood stirs the full veins, we still
Shall be a body ever moved by impulse of thy will.

Emp. And finally, what we to-day have done, we would make fast

By writing, that to future times as solemn proof may last.
Princes, I give you in your lands dominion full and free,
With only this condition, that they undivided be,
And that however you increase the lands that we bestow,
They to the eldest son shall still invariably go.

Arch. [*as CHANCELLOR*]. This, to ourselves, and to the realm, a most important measure,
To parchment I shall now confide, as Chancellor, with pleasure :

That it be written fair and sealed, the Chancery will make sure ;

To give effect to it, you add the holy signature.

Emp. And now this council I dismiss, that each one of you may

Ponder collectedly upon the acts of this great day.

[Exeunt TEMPORAL PRINCES]

The ARCHBISHOP remains and speaks in a pathetic tone

Arch. The Chancellor has gone ! the Bishop still is here !

An earnest warning spirit has forced him to your ear ;
He sees thee, with a father's heart, a father's love and fear.

Emp. What mean you ? Speak ! Why tremble in this hour of happy cheer ?

Arch. In a sad hour, with bitter pangs, do I behold, alas !
Thy crowned and consecrated head in league with Satan.
Your crown has been secured to you, 'twould so seem, 'gainst
all hope,

But with no blessing from on high, no sanction from the
Pope.

Upon thy sinful land ere long in judgment he will sit,
And with his holy lightnings strike, annihilating it.
He hath not, how could he forget that strange portentous
deed

Of yours, the day that you were crowned, and the magician
freed ;

When from the diadem, to all good Christians' grief and
dread,

The first beam of its mercy glanced on that accursed head ?
Beat on thy breast in penitence ! Oh ! think of thy soul's
health,

And give some little to the Church of all that demon-
wealth.

Where, listening to the prince of lies, you sinned—oh !
chiefly there,

'Twere fitting to atone for sin, and evil done repair.

My counsel take—'tis for your sake I chiefly speak, believe
it—

That very spot, why should you not to pious uses give it ?
Oh ! sanctify the broad hill-space where thy tent stood,
and where

The evil spirits, aiding thee, in battle active were :

And give the mountain and the wood, that league on
league extends,

And the pasture-land beginning just where the woodland
ends ;

Bright lakes alive with fish, and brooks that from the moun-
tain's crown

Wind numberless along the slopes, then to the vale leap
down ;

And the broad vale, oh ! dedicate, with meadow-land and
plain.

Repentance thus expressed finds grace, and never pleads
in vain.

Emp. Thinking upon my heavy crime, such terrors on
me seize,

I leave it to yourself to fix at will the boundaries.

Arch. First, then, be the polluted land, defiled by magic art,

For ever to the service of the Highest set apart.

Already I in spirit see the stately walls aspire,

Already feel the morning sun's first rays light up the choir.

The rising structure to a cross enlarges and extends ;

Believers see with joy the nave that lengthens and ascends ;

The faithful through rich portals stream, borne on with burning zeal,

And over vale, and over hill, is heard the bell's first peal ;

From towers, that heavenward point and strive, rings the far-echoed sound—

There, kneeling down, the penitent a better life hath found.

And at the dedication day—oh ! would that it were now—

And kneeling in that church—thy gift—such penitent wert thou.

Emp. Oh ! may this pious work avail to-day,

To praise the Lord, and put my sin away !

Already, in the thought sublime, above myself I feel.

Arch. I, as the Chancellor, arrange formality and seal.

Emp. Prepare the fitting document, purporting to secure

This to the Church, and I'll with joy affix my signature.

Arch. [*takes leave, but immediately returns*]. And to the

work, as it proceeds, must thou too dedicate

Land-dues, benevolences large, and tribute, rent, and rate

For ever. To support the staff with money you should aid ;

The bursar and the auditor must not be underpaid.

That the building may go quickly on, you cannot, sure, withhold,

From the plunder of the enemy, an offering of gold.

We also shall have need—the thing admits not of disguise—

Of foreign timber, lime, and slate, and of them large supplies

The carriage will cost nothing : we'll have orators addressing

The crowd, to preach “ who serves the Church may reckon on her blessing.”

[*Exit*]

Emp. Grievous and heavy is the sin wherewith I've burthened me ;

These odious sorcerers bring me to a sad extremity.

Arch. [returns again with a deep obeisance].

Pardon me, Sire. The sea-shore of the realm to that
bad man

Has been conveyed ; yet will he fall under the Church's
ban,

Unless, repentant, to the Church from all that land you
give

Tithes, contributions, rents and rates, and dues derivative.

Emp. [vexed]. The land ! Call you that "land," o'er-
flowed by ocean vast ?

Arch. Where patience and good title are, possession
comes at last.

For us may your all-gracious word inviolate remain ' [

Emp. [alone]. What will he next, perhaps, demand
The realm o'er which I reign ?]

ACT V

I

OPEN COUNTRY

WANDERER. BAUCIS. PHILEMON

Wanderer. Yes ! 'tis their dusk grove of linden,
Strong in undecaying age ;
And shall I again behold them,
After years of pilgrimage ?
Still the same old place—see yonder !
See the hut that sheltered me,
When upon these downs the billows
Flung me from the stormy sea !
Oh ! that I once more could greet them—
My old hosts—even then they were
Old. And can I hope to meet them ?
Earnest, active, kindly pair !
Oh ! but they were kindly people !
Shall I knock ? or with my voice
Question gently ? Do my old friends
Still in doing good rejoice ?

Baucis [*a very old woman*]. Softly ! softly ! gentle stranger,

To his rest the old man leave ;
Strength for their short hours of waking
Still from sleep the old receive.

Wand. Say then, love you still, dear mother,
Still to hear my thanks again ?
By thy kind act and thy husband's
Rescued. Many years since then !
Art thou Baucis, she, whose nurture
To my cold lips called back life ?

PHILEMON enters

Thou, Philemon, who my treasure
Saved amid the billows' strife ?
How the rapid fire you lighted
Threw its blaze o'er ocean drear !
How that night amid the tempest
Rang your small bell's silvery cheer !

Let me move a few steps onward
Let me view the boundless sea !
Let me kneel in thankful prayer
My full heart oppresses me.

[*Moves rapidly over the downs*]

Philemon [*to BAUCIS*]. Hasten now to spread the table
'Mong the garden's cheerful trees ;
Let him run, and, struck with wonder,
Start back, doubting all he sees.

[*Follows him*]

Phil. [*to the WANDERER*]. Where the sea in savage
fury

Wave on foaming wave once rolled,
Now you see a happy garden,
Fair as Eden was of old.

Gone was my poor strength—too feeble
To have aided ; weak like me,
Shrank the waves, till then unconquered,
Shrank in fear the mighty sea.

Bold hands toiled, wise heads directed,
 Dikes and dams shut out the sea ;
 Ocean's old rights they invaded,
 Lords, where he had ruled, to be.

See ! in green waves meadows rolling !
 Pastures, garden, woodland, town !
 But the evening bids us homeward. "
 Come !—the sun is sinking down.

Sails move inward from the distance,
 For the night to port repair ;
 Birds, that know their nests, I warrant.,
 For a haven now is there !

Far away in the dim distance,
 First the sea's blue fringe you trace ;
 Right and left, see, fields and gardens
 Crowd the thickly peopled space.

II

IN THE GARDEN

THE THREE AT THE TABLE

Bau. [*to WANDERER*]. Are you dumb ?—and not a morsel

To your famished lips you move !

Phil. He may wish to hear of wonders,
 And to tell of such you love.

Bau. Wonders ! Prodigies of Magic !
 What was done still troubles me.
 It was nothing good, I warrant—
 Nothing such as ought to be.

Phil. Would the Emperor, were it evil,
 Then, have granted him the shore ?
 Heard we not the trumpet tell it
 As the herald passed our door ?
 Near this very door was planted
 The first foot ; then tents were seen ;

Cottages ; and now a palace
Rises with its verdant screen.

Bau. All in vain men slaved by daylight—
Axe and shovel—blows on blows.
'Twas at night where the red flamelets
Swarmed, at dawn the dam arose.
There, no doubt, bled human victims ;
Shrieks of pain through night we heard ;
And, where waves of fire flowed seaward,
A canal at dawn appeared.
'Tis a godless man ! he covets
This our little cot, our wood.
Neighbour call you him ? Subjection
Comes with such man's neighbourhood.

Phil. Yet he makes us ample offer—
Homestead fair in the new land !

Bau. Trust not land that late was water ;
On the high ground keep thy stand.

Phil. Move we onward to the chapel,
The last sunbeams to behold ;
Kneel, and with the bell make music—
God our refuge, as of old.

[*Exeunt*

III

PALACE

EXTENSIVE PLEASURE-GARDEN ; LARGE, STRAIGHT CANAL

FAUST, *in extreme old age, walking about, meditating*

Lynceus [the warder of the tower, through a speaking trumpet].

Sunset ! In its pleasant glimmer,
The last vessels seek the bay.
Hither, see ! a stately wherry
Up the long canal makes way.
Now the gay barque's coloured streamers,
Now the joyous masts appear.
Thee the mariner wave-wearied
Blesses, glad to rest him here.

[The little bell sounds on the downs

Faust [*starts*]. Damned ringing! vile mean tinklings!—
like

A treacherous arrow's stings they strike.
Before me, far and wide, extend
My fair dominions without end;
Behind me jars this envious thing's
Vile babble, evermore that rings
Its dissonance into my ear.
Are my lands mine? or can I feel
Them mine, when that distracting peal
Is everlastingly heard here?
The linden field, the cottage brown,
The old church mossed and mouldering down,
They are not mine; and should I there
Wish to enjoy myself, the air
Oppresses me, my heart grows chill
In the strange shadows on that hill:
Thorns to my eyes, thorns to my feet are they—
Torture! Oh! would that I were far away.

Lyn. [*from above*]. How joyously, in the fresh evening
gales,

Up the canal the gay barque hither sails!
How rapidly it nears us, with its store
Of huge chests, bags, and boxes crowded o'er!
[*A beautiful barque, richly laden with the produce of
foreign climes, now appears; MEPHISTOPHELES
and his "THREE" disembark*

Chor. [*to FAUST*]. We're at home: we are on land;
'Twas a prosperous sail.
Hail to thee, Master!

Patron! all hail! [*The goods are landed*

Meph. We have done not badly here,
Happy if our patron praise!
Vessels twenty now have we;
With but two we went to sea.
See! what booty, see! what gear
Our full-laden barque displays.
The free sea makes the spirit free.
Of right or wrong but little care,
Nor much of ceremony there.
'Tis ready eye and rapid grip;
'Tis seeing, snapping, fish or ship.
And thus a third ship to our two

We added, and a fourth pursue.
 Ill fares the fifth that looms in sight ;
 'Tis ours as sure as might makes right.
 The *what*, and not the *how*, for me.
 —I think I ought to know the sea.
 War, and trade, and piracy,
 One in spirit are all three !

The " Three." No thanks, nor greeting
 Nor word, nor smile !
 As if what we brought
 Were worthless and vile.
 With a scowl of dislike,
 With disgust and displeasure,
 He has turned him away,
 As despising the treasure.

Meph. Off with you—you are paid—you've had your due—

—Retained it—there is nothing now for you.

The " Three." What we kept of it
 Was our perquisite.

I'd have you to know we have all done our duty,
 And our right is an equal share of the booty.

[*The cargo is removed*]

Meph. First the costly spoils together
 Place in order, row on row,
 Store on store ; and when to-morrow
 He beholds the splendid show,
 He will look at all with calmness,
 And reward you as is meet—
 With free hand his lavish bounty
 Feast on feast will give the fleet.
 The gay birds come with morning's light ;
 I'll see to it, that all goes right.

[*The cargo is stored. Exeunt THE " THREE "*]

Meph. [*to FAUST*]. With clouded looks and heavy brow,
 What Fortune sends, regardest thou.
 Think on the victories that crown
 Thy wisdom, sea and land made one.
 Welcoming, the sea receives
 The barque, that with gay flag unfurled
 The happy shore exulting leaves.
 Here, Lord of Earth, from this thy throne,

Here, from thy palace, rule the world,
 Land—sea—and all that is—thine own!
 'Twas here the works began. Here stood
 The first poor shed of rough-hewn wood.
 Here, where plashes now the oar,
 Their lines through clay the delvers tore.
 Here did thy science, and the hands
 Obeying still thy high commands,
 Join land and sea. Here——

Faust. Cursed be
 This *Here*!—'tis torture—'tis disgust:
 From your experienced eye I must
 Not seek to hide that, sting on sting,
 It wounds my heart; nor can I name
 The cause without a sense of shame.
 Surely—yes, surely—'tis a thing
 In which the old folks on the hill
 Ought to give up to mine their will.
 I wished to have the linden field:
 Obstinate fools!—they will not yield.
 The world is mine, but all its joy
 Those few trees, not my own, destroy.

There would I, for the prospect's sake,
 From bough to bough my scaffolds run,
 And vistas through the branches make
 To gaze on all that I have done.
 Thence overlook, as from a tower,
 Wide lands for man's dwelling won,
 Noblest work of human power.
 Flowing thence the master-mind
 Would to all glad impulse give,
 And its own enjoyment find
 In the joys that round it live.

'Tis too bad. What we have of weal
 We feel not. What we want we feel.
 The lindens, and the little bell,
 The tinkling, and the heavy smell,
 Bring round me mists of church and grave.
 The Will that made all bend in fear
 Breaks—breaks upon this sand-bank here.
 Rings but that little bell, I rave.

Meph. Of course!—There never was a moment yet,
That something did not come to make you fret.
Here, I must own, your anger's just.
There's not a noble ear but must
Hear this ding-dong with deep disgust.
The dismal boom with vapour-clouds
The cheerful sky of evening shrouds;
From a birth-day bath to burial time
For ever sounds the dreary chime,
Till it makes Man's life almost seem
"Twixt peal and peal a ding-dong dream.

Faust. How is it that they hold out still?

—What obstinacy of self-will!

• All from the sea that I have won
Is spoiled—undone all I have done.

—Torture! How is a man to deal
With such folk, who can neither feel

Their own nor others' good? One must
At last grow tired of being just!

Meph. I see no difficulty in the case.

—Are you not bound to colonise the place?

Faust. Just on the bounds of my own grounds there is a
little cot

I've chosen there, for the old pair. Go! place them in
that spot.

Meph. [*humming half to himself*]. Aye! pluck them up,
and carry them off, and lay them down; and then,
Before you have time to look about, they're on their legs
again.

To be sure, such shocks and violent knocks they may
think an outrageous thing;

But field and farm are a capital charm good temper back
to bring.

[*Whistles shrilly*]

Enter THE "THREE"

Come! 'tis the master's bidding meet;

To-morrow he will feast the fleet.

The "Three." The old master's! He with scorn and
slight
Has treated us—the feast's our right.

Meph. [*to the audience*]. What long ago was done, is done here too.
The tale of Naboth's vineyard is not new.

IV

DEAD OF NIGHT

Lynceus [*the Warder, on his tower singing*].

At birth was I gifted
With quick powers of seeing,
And Nature and Fortune
For once are agreeing.
On the height of his watch-tower,
The warder's employment,
While he glances around,
Is but change of enjoyment.
I gaze on the distant,
I look on the near,
On the moon and the bright stars,
The wood and the deer.
All that I look on
Is lovely to see ;
I am happy, and all things
Seem happy to me.
Glad eyes look around ye,
On earth or in air,
Gaze where ye will,
For still all things are fair !

[*Pause*

Other scenes than of delight
Reach the warder on his height.
Ha ! what clouds of horror breathe
From the world of gloom beneath !
Spark on spark upshoots in spray
Through the lindens' double night.
—How the strong glow rends his way,
Swelling, panting with the breeze,
Bristling into fiercer light !
Ha ! the cottage in the trees,

Where the heavy moss had grown
 Over moist and mouldering stone,
 Blazes ! Oh that help were near !
 —Hand to rescue, none is here !
 Alas ! the kindly good old pair
 Who, some years since, watched with such care
 Night after night their beacon-fire,
 —Thus to perish ! Higher, higher,
 'Mid stifling smoke-clouds flames the flame.
 In dusk-red light, through the black night,
 Stands out distinct the mossy frame.
 —Oh, that shelter could be found them
 From the wild hell raging round them !—
 Tongues of light flash up between
 The leaves, and through the branchy sprays ;
 Dry flickering boughs have caught the blaze,
 And burning fierce and fast fall in.
 Misery such sight to see !
 Why hath this power of vision been
 Bestowed, alas ! on me ?
 The little lowly chapel roof
 Is breaking down : it is not proof
 Against the crush and weight of all
 The burning boughs that on it fall.
 Serpentine, the sharp flames seize
 The upper twigs of the old trees ;
 Down, the hollow stems are purpled
 To the roots in turbid glow. [Long pause. Song

What the eye so loved is vanished
 • With the years of long ago.

Faust [on the balcony toward the downs].
 What a strange whimpering plaint from the watch-tower !
 The word is here, and the lament, too late.
 My warder wails it ; would 'twere in my power
 To make undone the deed precipitate !
 Of the old lindens scarce some half-burned stem
 Remains. 'Tis well that we are rid of them.
 Aye ! that's the very spot on which to place
 A terrace to look out on boundless space ;
 To see among the happy dwellings there
 • The new home of that stubborn strange old pair.

They soon will learn to thank me and to praise
 For all life's blessings in life's closing days—
 Feel how much I have served them, and the sight
 Of their contentment will give me delight.

MEPHISTOPHELES AND THE "THREE" [*below*]

Meph. We're here, full trot. I wish things had
 Gone better ;—not that they are bad.
 We knocked, we kicked ; but not a bit
 Of the old folk would open it.
 We kicked and shook it all the more ;
 And down came the old rotten door.
 We called aloud with curse and threat ;
 But not an answer could we get.
 They did not hear us—would not hear—
 Met our demand with a deaf ear.
 This is, you know, the common trick :
 So on we went—knock, push, and kick.
 We were your agents, and, no doubt,
 Must do the work we came about.
 We had no loitering, no debate ;
 We've done your work—cleared your estate.
 The poor old couple sank outright ;
 Suffered no pain—they died of fright.
 A stranger, who was for the night,
 By some chance, sleeping there, showed fight—
 Would not keep quiet, though ill-matched
 With our force. Him we soon dispatched.
 In the confusion of the fray
 The straw caught fire—some cinders lay
 Scattered about. 'Tis blazing free ;
 The funeral death-pile of the three.

Faust. Distraction ! Would that you had been
 Deaf to my words, or not deaf to their sense !
 Peaceful exchange I wished, not violence.
 Your act was plunder, merciless, and worse—
 Murder. I curse it. You and it I curse.

Chor. The old saying rings loud in my ear at this hour :
 " Strive, heart and hand, in the service of Power,
 Strive to the utmost, and risk in the strife
 Life, honour, and wealth, you lose honour, wealth,
 life ! "

V

MIDNIGHT

FAUST on the balcony, looking towards the burning cottage

Faust. The fading stars their glance and glow
Hide. The fire sinks and flickers low;
And, fanning it, a breeze blows cold,
And smoke and mist toward me are rolled.
Rash word! rash deed! What can it be
Sweeps hither—spectral, shadowy?

Enter FOUR GREY WOMEN

First. I am Want.

Second. And I'm
By men called Guilt—Debt—Crime.

Third. And I am Care.

Fourth. And men call me Misery,
Distress, and Dire Necessity.

Three of Them. The door is barred and bolted hard,
And we have no way to enter in.
'Tis a rich man's home to which we have come,
And we have no wish to enter in.

First. I fade into shadow.

Second. I cease to be.

Fourth. The spoiled child of Fortune will turn from me,
Displeased at the presence of Misery.

Care. Will see not what he has no wish to see.

First. Sisters—grey sisters—away let us glide.

Second. Away and away! I am still at thy side.

Fourth. And I at thy heels follow fast as a breath
Of the wandering vapour.

Three. The clouds are thickening, the stars are sick-
ening.
From beneath—fast and fast—from afar—from afar—
From below—from below—to the place where we are—
Comes another—our brother.

See ye him? feel ye him? know ye him?—Death.

Faust. Four came—I saw them—and could only see
Three going. And the odd talk of the three,

As they went hence, what could its meaning be ?
 I caught some few strange murmurs—Care, and Crime,
 And Death—the burthen of their dreary rhyme.
 The hollow tones breathed an unearthly chill,
 And through me yet they have not ceased to thrill.
 Were my path once but from this magic free,
 Forgotten all these words of sorcery,
 Stood I alone, O Nature, before thee
 Man, and but Man, 'twere worth the trouble to be
 A man.

Such was I once, but I must grope
 And dabble in the dark—must blot out hope—
 Must curse myself, and curse the world without.
 These phantoms everywhere now float about
 Through the thick air. Go where one will, one meets
 The same perplexities—the same deceptions.
 If but one day seem tolerably bright,
 Wild dreams will come disquieting the night.
 From the fresh fields we come with joyous cheer,
 And a bird croaks. What croaks he ? Danger near.
 By Superstition morn and eve beset,
 And never free from her entangling net ;
 Divorced from Nature's life, each accident
 Takes shape ; is sign, and omen, and portent ;
 And we—unmanned by terror—stand alone.
 —The door creaks—none comes in. Is any one
 There ?—

Care. The question is its own reply.

Faust. A voice ! Whom hear I speaking ?

Care.

It is I.

Faust. Away with thee !

Care. I'm where I have good right
 To be.

Faust [*to himself—first angry, then recovering*].
 Take heed, and speak no spell to-night.

Care. Heard not by the outward ear,
 In the heart I am a Fear,
 And from me is no escape.
 Every hour I change my shape,
 Roam the highway, ride the billow,
 Hover round the anxious pillow.
 Ever found, and never sought,

Flattered, cursed. Oh! know you not
Care? Know you not Anxiety?

Faust. I've but run through the world; and all, that
pleased

Or promised pleasure, eagerly have seized:
What fled I thought no more of, nor pursued
Even with a wish the evanescent good:
Desired, and had, and new desires then formed,
And thus through life impetuously stormed.
In power and greatness first 'twas mine to live;
And now, in wisdom's walks contemplative.
Of Earth I know enough. To aught beside
Of other worlds all access is denied.
Madness! to search beyond with prying eyes,
And feign or fancy brethren in the skies.
Let Man look round him here! Here plant his foot!
The world is to the active never mute.
We know but what we grasp. What need have we
Of thoughts that wander through eternity?
Your demons of above, and of below,
At their free pleasure let them come and go.
Of goblins' freaks the wise nor knows nor cares,
But says, "I go my own way, and they theirs."
And thus, come good, come evil, let him stride
Onward and onward—still unsatisfied!

Care. Whom I once have made my own
All the life of life finds gone.
Gloom of more than night descending
On his steps is still attending.
Morning never on his path
Rises. Sunset none he hath.
Shape unchanged, and senses whole,
—But with darkness of the soul.
Having all things, and possessing
Nothing; poisoning every blessing;
At each change of fortune whining,
In abundance poor and pining;
All things, speak they joy or sorrow
Still postponing to the morrow;
Ever of the future thinking;
Ever from the present shrinking;
And the dream goes on for ever,
And the coming time comes never.

Faust. Cease ! you talk nonsense. You'll make nothing of me.

I will not listen to a word of it. Off with thee !
This wild witch-litany is bad
Enough to drive the wisest mad.

Care. Will he come, or will he go ?
Who can answer yes or no ?
Purposes postponed, forsaken,
All resolve is from him taken.
On the beaten road he loses
Still his way, and bypaths chooses ;
Still some devious track pursuing,
All things still by slant lights viewing ;
Helplessly on friends relying ;
Scarcely living, yet not dying ;
His is endless vacillation,
—Not despair, not resignation—
Restless—never more partaking
Calm of sleep or joy of waking ;
All that others do resenting ;
All that he hath done repenting ;
All he hath not done regretting ;
All he ought to do forgetting ;
Lingering, leaving ; longing, loathing ;
Ripe for Hell and good for nothing !

Faust. Ill-boding spectres ! you in many ways
The current of man's happiness derange,
And even the calm of uneventful days
Cloud and perplex, and into torture change.
I know from demons none can make him free,
Break the strong bands that spirit to spirit unite ;
But creeping Care, lower as thou wilt, thy might
I never will acknowledge. Hence with thee !

Care. Feel it then ! As fast I flee,
With a curse I part from thee ;
Men are blind their whole life long.
Faustus, at life's closing, be
Blind. My curse I breathe on thee.

Faust [*blind*]. Deeper and deeper fast comes on the
night,
But pure within shines unobstructed light ;
What I've thought out I hasten to fulfil.
The Master's bidding is the true power still.

Up, serfs, to work ! and let my bold design
Before the eyes in outward beauty shine.
Up, lazy serfs ! up all ! seize shovel and spade,
Set to work briskly where the lines are laid.
To perfect the great work I plan demands
One ruling spirit and a thousand hands !

VI

FORECOURT OF THE PALACE

Torches

MEPHISTOPHELES. LEMURES. FAUST

Mephistopheles [leading the way as overseer].

Come on ! come on ! come in ! come in !

Ye Lemures, patched together ;

Nerves, muscles, loose bones, bags of skin,

Half-naturals, come hither !

Enter LEMURES

Chorus of Lemures.

We are at hand ; and your command

As we half understood it,

Is that we drain a patch of land

Apt to be overflowed.

The pointed stakes, they all are here,

And chains with which to measure.

If we but knew what we've to do ;

Pray tell us what's your pleasure ?

Meph. Little need here of science, or of skill,
Or measuring lines ; if but the longest will
At his full length lay him down on the ground,
And the rest of you scrape the sods up round,
Just to mark the dimensions—it is what
We have done for our fathers all—man's common lot.
Aye, dig away—just lengthen out that square,
Scoop the sand up—make the hole deeper there.

—Still from the palace to the narrow house
Beside it—the one road! 'Twas ever thus.

Lem. [digging with bantering gestures].
I lived and loved, and I was young,
And thought it was so sweet ;
And I was young, and played and sung,
And merry went my feet.

But now old Age, the spiteful knave,
Has hit me with his crutch :
I stumbled on an open grave,
Their heedlessness was such !

Faust [coming out of the Palace, feeling his way' along the door-posts].

What a delight to heart and ear
This stir of spades at work to hear ;
All, that owe service for their land,
Are active in the work at hand,
—Earth with itself to reconcile,
Fix limits to the wild waves' race,
And bind the sea with firm embrace.

Meph. Aye, and for us you're working all the while.
Oh ! what a banquet will your dam and dike
To Neptune the sea-devil give belike ;
Any way, they and you both go to ruin.
The Elements for evermore are doing
Our work. Our sworn friends, they and we are one :
All things still into nothing running on !

Faust. Overseer !

Meph. Here !

Faust. Bring hither man on man,
Labourers in crowds, as many as you can ;
Give all they wish or want ; pay any price ;
Press them into the works ; persuade, entice.
Let me each day know what they have been doing ;
Let true account be given me—take thou heed
No time be lost—how dike and dam proceed.

Meph. [half aloud]. With other dam and dike, it would
appear—
Than that which soon will tuck him in—most clear,
That the old man has little business here.

Faust [to himself]. Along the mountain range a poisonous swamp

O'er what I've gained breathes pestilential damp.

To drain the fetid pool off—were that done,

Then were, indeed, my greatest triumph won.

To many millions ample space 'twould give,

Not safe, indeed, from inroad of the sea,

But yet, in free activity to live.

—Green fruitful fields, where man and beast are found

Dwelling contentedly on the new ground ;

Homes, nestling in the shelter of the hill

Uprolled by a laborious people's skill ;

A land like paradise within the mound,

Though the sea rave without to o'erleap its bound,

Or nibbling at it, sapping, plashing, win

Its way, impetuously to rush in.

All, with one impulse, haste to the sea-wall,

Repel the mischief that endangers all.

For this one only object do I live,

To the absorbing thought myself I give.

Freedom like life—the last best truth we learn—

Man still must conquer, and in conquering earn ;

And, girded thus by danger, childhood here

Grey age and man and boy work out the year.

Oh ! could I see such throngs, could I but stand

With a free people, and upon free land !

Then might I to such moment of delight

Say, " Linger with me, thou that art so bright ! "

Ne'er shall the traces of my earthly day

Perish in lapsing centuries away.

Anticipating moment such as this,

Even now do I enjoy the highest bliss !

[*Sinks back ; LEMURES lay him on the ground*

Meph. And this the spirit that nothing can appease !

No joys give him content, no pleasures please—

Still hankering after strange stray fantasies.

The empty moment, that amused him last,

Infatuated, he would fain hold fast.

He, who against me made so stiff a stand,

Time is his master now—aye, there he is,

The grey old man stretched out upon the sand.

The clock stands still.

Chor.

Stands still.

Is silent as midnight.

The hand falls.

Meph. Falls. 'Tis finished: and all's right.*Chor.* All's past away—gone by.*Meph.* Gone by! There is no meaning in the word!

Gone by?—all's over, then. Gone by?—absurd.'

Gone by and utter nothing are all one:

Why, then, does this creating still go on?

Gone by? What means it?—What a sorry trade!

Making, and making nothing of what's made.

And then this nothing evermore we see

Making pretence a something still to be.

So on it goes, the same dull circle spinning—

'Twere better with the Eternal Void beginning!

BURIAL

LEMURES, MEPHISTOPHELES, DEVILS (*Long-horns and Short-horns*), HEAVENLY HOST, CHOIR OF ANGELS*Lemure* [solo]. And who hath built the house so ill
With shovel and with spade?*Lemures* [chorus]. For thee, damp guest in hempen vest,
It all too well was made.*Lemure* [solo]. And who the hall hath decked so ill?
—No chairs, nor table any.*Lemures* [chorus]. The lodging-house was let at will,
The claimants are so many.*Meph.* There lies the body, and when the spirit flies
out,

I meet him straightway with the blood-signed scroll—

A title, one would fancy, free from doubt;

But, now-a-days, they have so many ways

To chouse the devil of a hard-won soul.

The old road's scarce in fashion—has ruts on it—

On the new short work of us poor devils is made—

We are not known there in the way of trade;

In the old time, I could alone have done it.

To catch him I must call up other aid.

All now goes wrong—old customs disregarded,
 Old rights are trampled down—old rules discarded.
 Why, in the old day, the soul, when the puff
 Was out, would quit the body quick enough.
 Then was I ready, without pain or pause,
 To snap it like a mouse up in my claws ;
 But now it sticks, and will not leave the place,
 But lingers in the body's filthy case,
 Till from its hold 'tis in dishonour cast
 Forth by the warring elements at last.
 Fretting with baffled hope, day after day
 I've often watched your stiff one as he lay ;
 A pretty waste of toil and time, for then
 Would tangled questions come of "How?" "Where?"
 "When?"

Death is not now as Death was long ago.
 If dead or not, 'tis long before we know.
 —Often have I sat leering with delight
 On the stark limbs. False show ! It stirred, moved, lived
 outright.

[*Fantastic gestures of conjuring to the Devils, who
 come at his call, as described*

On, Generals, on ! Come—quick march, double time—
 quick,
 Lords of the straight ! Lords of the crooked horn !
 Demons of blood and birth—chips of the old block—
 With the long curled crumple horns ! Come, short-horned,
 thick

Devils, tubby, stubby—right breed they—true stock—
 Stretch breast and back—and show what good is in you !
 From the place below draw for the spectacle
 Up to the stage one of the Mouths of Hell.

[*Apart. Knowingly to the audience*

Hell has mouths many, many !—Deep respect
 Hath Hell, and seats reserved, for the upper classes ;
 But wait awhile, and, if the old play continue,
 After another season or two passes,
 And the people get their true rights, I expect
 Hell too will be thrown open to the masses.

[*Hell-mouth opens at the left of the stage.*

The edge-teeth gnash. The vaulted gulf's wide rim
 O'erflows with angry fire. Through seething smoke
 I see the City of Flame at distance flashing,

And to the teeth the red surf up is splashing ;
 And out the damned, hoping escape, would swim,
 When the hyæna-jaws close on them crashing.
 In anguish then they turn them to retrace
 Their fiery path for ever. Many a nook
 Is here of undiscovered agony,
 —The fiercest pangs massed in the narrowest space.

[*Aside, to the knowing*

Good thing to frighten sinners with !—They deem
 It, all the while, deceit—delusion—dream.

[*To the thick Devils with short straight horns*

Up ! fire-backed grubs, your red sleek cheeks aglow
 With brimstone blazes from the place below.
 Up ! lumpy, stumpy devils that you are, be staunch :
 Come, stir the broad back, shake the lazy paunch.
 Be awake, be alive, mind well what you're about,
 Twist your bull-necks round, if they'll twist—keep a good
 eye out

For the glimmer of the rotting phosphorus there—the
 sparkle

Is the delicate little Soul—the glorious form
 The Psyche with her heaven-aspiring wing !
 Pluck the wings off—pah ! 'tis a sorry worm.
 I'll seal it with my seal, the filthy thing.

Away with it ! away, in whirlwind, fire, and storm !
 Keep watch and ward on the body's lower places ;
 Ye windy Puff-balls, empty Bladder-faces,

—Secure the passes thence. There is no telling
 But that the soul had thereabouts her dwelling,
 The navel is a lodge she loves. Your legions
 Should guard and garrison these under regions,
 Take care lest the spirit slip out and whisk you by.

[*To the lean Devils with long crooked horns*

Up to the head—up, Fuglemen gigantic,
 Comical rascals—Devils, that ape the antic,
 Be for once in earnest ; rake, with your hooked claws,
 The air around you ! stretch up your webbed paws'
 Gaunt network ! Snatch at, catch at, on the wing
 Seize, as it flits away, the fluttering thing.

In ruins the old roof about it lies,
 It must go out—the chances are 'twill rise—
 Genius is uppish—and would seek the skies.

[*A glory from above, at the right*

Heavenly Host. Follow, envoys sent
From Heaven's high firmament,
In 'srenest flight !
Children of the light !
Sinners to forgive ;
To bid dead dust live ;
Downward lingering
On momentary wing,
To all Natures leave
Fitted to receive,
As you hover by,
Blessings from on high.

Meph. False tones I hear, a hateful nasty noise.
Unwelcomê day streams on me from above.
The choir emasculate of girlish boys !
The mawkish sing-song pious people love !
You know our damned design and vile device,
To effect the extirpation of Man's race.
They seize our plot, and this worst artifice
Finds in their hymns and in their heaven a place.
There they come fawning, look at them ! there they are !
Full many a one from us they've snapped away.
With our own weapons on us they make war.
Hypocrite-scoundrels ! Devils in cowls are they !
Eternal shame 'twere conquered here to sink.
On to the grave ! on, Devils, on ! guard the brink !

Choir of Angels [strewing roses].
Dazzling roses, dropping balm,
With secret breath restoring
Heaven's life of happy calm !
Fluttering down, up soaring,
Plummy branchlings, winglets green,
Buds, unsealed from timid screen,
Wake into sudden blow !

Burst out, celestial Spring,
In green and purple glow,
Your Paradises bring
To him who sleeps below !

Meph. [to his devils]. What, stoop ? and duck ?—and
• have ye no more pluck ? •

Is this the way with you, devils ? not keep your ground ?
 Each to his post, aye, let them scatter round
 Their roses—pretty trick the day to win—
 The red-hot devils with flower-shows to snow in.
 Before your breath the rose-shower melts and shrivels,
 Blow, Bellows-fiends ! blow brisk ! Puff ! Puff-ball devils !
 Enough ! enough ! the blast may be too rough.
 —That will just do ; each leaf as it floats hither,
 Grows pale—aye, every one of them will wither.
 Somewhat more softly—shut up nose and maw—
 Not one of you but works with too much jaw.
 How is it that you never can go right ?
 —They're more than parched, they're browned, they're
 burning quite,
 And into white flames venomously clear,
 Kindled by your own breath, press 'gainst you here.

Resist ! all stand together in full force !
 What ? Is all courage gone ? and—worse and worse —
 Devils—are they love-sick ?—wheedled by the smell
 Of a few scorched rose-leaves. What a thing to tell !

Angel. Happy blossoms ! Joyous flames !
 Love they spread, and joy would kindle,
 Be the heart how it may,
 Words true—pure effluence
 Of the ethereal light
 Made present to the sense
 Of Heaven's own angels bright—
 Illimitable day !

Meph. Curse upon them ! Shame eternal !
 Satans—think of the infernal
 Scoundrels—on their heads are standing ;
 Fat ones, wheeling, racing, reeling,
 With their blind sides right before 'em—
 —Dozens flying, falling o'er 'em—
 In their own hell find a landing.
 Much good may the hot bath do them ! After their race
 'Twill be a refreshing thing. [*Devils disappear as described*

I'll keep my place.
 [*Strikes at the roses*

Off! will-o'-the-wisps! However bright your gleam,
Caught in the hand you're but a filthy cream.
Why flutter thus about me? Off with you!
—They sting like brimstone, stick like pitch or glue.

Angels' Choir. What of your nature is no part

Shrink from! Love is pure.

That, which shocks or wounds the heart,

Oh! think not to endure.

If violently in 'twould move,

We then must active be.

Love only leads the loving. Love

Loves on eternally.

Meph. I'm all on fire; my head, heart, liver burn.
Here's love-heat with a vengeance—fire too fine
For the devil to breathe—flame sharper than hell-flame.
And this is Love; and this makes whine and pine
Poor love-lorn earthlings, and their wry necks turn
To court the eye of some contemptuous dame.
Me, too! What is't makes my head twirl and twist,
And thither, where I have been at sworn war?
—Am I in love with what I did abhor?
Has a strange something that I know not of
Coursed through and through me? How is it that I
love

To look on these dear young things? that some force
Makes it impossible for me to curse?
If I'm fooled now, who, for all time hereafter,
Shall be Fool of Fools, the butt of never-ending laughter?
The shapely creatures hovering through the air,
—They with their lightnings dangerously fair—
The brilliant darlings, though I cannot cease
To hate them, are too lovely for my peace.

Fair children! ye, too, if I do not err,
Like me, are of the race of Lucifer.
—Love for one's own does seem so natural—
Dear children! let me kiss you one and all.
We must have met a thousand times before,
Been playing with each other o'er and o'er.
You have found me in a soft mood. I am smitten;
Will you not come to me, dear coz! sweet kitten!
They grow more beautiful at every glance.
Come, one fond look! Let me not sigh in vain!

Angel. We come. Why shrink you back as we advance ?
We still move nearer. If you can, remain.

[*The ANGELS hover round and fill up the whole space*

Meph. [*pressed into the proscenium*].

And us ye call Damned Spirits, us you call evil—
Ye, common tempters of man, woman, devil.
Was ever known the like ? And this is, then,
The element of what's called Love by men !
My whole frame's fire ; the scorched spot on my neck
Is nothing here or there—a surface speck.

Ye hover up and down, and to and fro,
Float through the air, but still away ye flow.
Fairest ! float downward hither on soft wing.
No doubt the stately-solemn is your style !
Something more like the world were more the thing.
What joy 'twould give me could I see you smile !
—A lady's smile, who lets a favoured lover
In the fond hour her secret heart discover—
That were a something my whole nature casting
By one glance into rapture everlasting.
And 'tis so easily done. Just draw the lip
A little to one side, the slightest dip.

That long fellow is handsome, or at least
Good-looking—rather too much of the priest.
The folds of the broad stole are in excess ;
'Twere not less moral if it covered less.
Angels ! smile down upon me ! Charmers, stay !
They float into their heaven—are passed away.

Choir of Angels. Loving flames, that, long unseen,
In the heart have burning been,
Shine ye now in light serene !
Let the Hope-abandoned feel
That the Truth hath power to heal ;
That from Evil they may be
Disunited, and thus free,
And a blissful life live on
Ever in the All-in-one !

Meph. [*collecting himself*]. How is't ! Like Job, the
whole man, boil on boil !

At which himself must shudder and recoil ;
 —Aye, and feel triumph when he looks within,
 Knows what he is—true devil's blood kith and kin.
 ,All's right again ; untouched the better members ;
 The scurvy love-rash was but on the skin,
 Burned out already its last fading embers.
 The devil's clean devil again—the love-itch gone—
 And—my curse on you all and every one !

Choir of Angels. Holy heart-glowings !

Heavenly birth !
 Love's overflowings !
 Heaven on earth !
 Whom ye float around
 Even on earth hath found,
 Living with the good,
 Full Beatitude.

Arise, singing triumph,
 Rise all from beneath,
 The air is made pure
 For the spirit to breathe.

[They rise, carrying with them the immortal part of
 FAUST

Meph. [alone]. But how ?—all vanished ; they are gone
 —and whither ?

The young things ! they have cheated the old knave,
 —Fled heavenwards, and have ta'en their booty thither.
 For this—for this been nibbling at the grave.
 A treasure, all unique, they have cribbed. I'm juggled !
 The high soul pledged and promised me—no less—
 They have, in hugger-mugger, slyly smuggled.
 Where shall I lodge my summons for redress ?
 All my hard earnings—work and labour given—
 Is there no sense of right and wrong in heaven ?
 Cheated in my old days ! outwitted quite !
 And then hear for my comfort, “served him right.”
 And my expenses—getting up this case
 And with return of nothing but disgrace.
 And I've deserved it—everything mis-spent—
 All my own scandalous mismanagement :
 —A random love-gust, an absurd love-drivel,
 To have seized the seasoned cask of a stale old devil !

Mad childish freak, for one the world that knows,
 To have lost time about, or to propose ;
 Fool, first, last, midst—and, worst fool at the close.

VII

MOUNTAIN GORGES, FOREST, FIELD, DESERT

HOLY ANCHORITES

Scattered on the Hills, dwelling among the Cliffs

CHORUS and ECHO

Forest-trees, waving here !
 Rocks, hanging dark and drear !
 Roots of the forest-trees,
 Everywhere clinging !
 Shoots of the forest-trees,
 Everywhere springing !
 Brooklets with ceaseless waves !
 Shelter of sunless caves !

Lions love the holy place,
 Wake no terror, feel no fear.
 Round and round, with friendly pace,
 Move our dumb protectors here.

PATER ECSTATICUS [*floating up and down*].

Brand of eternal joy !
 Love-bondage glowing !
 Seething heart-agony !
 Rapture o'erflowing !
 Foaming up, seething up,
 Fervour benign
 From the depths breathing up !
 Rapture Divine !
 Axes, down-hew me !
 Lances, pierce through me !
 Clubs, come and shatter me !
 Lightning-darts, scatter me !

Thus, that, Self, cast away,
 Perished, and passed away,
 —Phantom-cloud fleeing
 This nothing of mine—
 The Star of true Being
 Transcendent may shine.

PATER PROFUNDUS [*in the lower part of the mountain*]

Calm, at my feet, its lonely crown
 Of rocks o'erbrows the precipice.
 A thousand streams foam flashing down
 In thunder to the black abyss.

And instincts from within still move
 To upper air the pine-trees tall.
 And Love it is, almighty Love,
 That moulds, sustains, and lives in all.

Here around me evermore
 The billowy forest rolls, above ;
 Below, the falling torrents roar ;
 Yet are they ministers of Love.
 The valleys that refresh and cheer,
 And when the lightning-darts flash forth,
 Their mission is belike to clear
 The air from clouds, that over earth
 Hang low with poison in their womb.
 Yes ! ministers of love are they.
 And tell of the great Being, whom,
 Creator still from day to day,
 We feel around us.

Oh ! illumine

My breast too, where distracted, vain,
 Sinks the cold spirit : break the chain
 Of this world's life, dispel the gloom,
 And bid the dead heart live again !

PATER SERAPHICUS [*middle region*]

Through the pine-trees' waving tresses
 Floats a morning cloudlet fair,

With its freight of youthful spirits,
Living in the radiance there.

CHOIR OF BLESSED BOYS

Tell us, father, where we wander ;
Tell us who and what are we.
We know but that we are happy.
Bliss it is to breathe, to be.

PATER SERAPHICUS

Born at midnight, soul and senses
Undeveloped to the sun,
Children, early lost to parents,
By the angels early won !
That a loving one is near you
If ye feel—oh ! come to me,
Ye whose feet have never trodden
Earth's rough pathway—happy ye !
Live within me, hither tending,
—I the world have seen and known—
From your radiant cloud descending,
Make the old man's eyes your own.

[He takes them into himself]

Gaze upon the region round us !
This is forest—that is rock ;
Here flow streams, that there are falling
Down the steep with fearful shock.

Boys *[from within him]*

'Tis a scene sublime to look on,
But how desolate and drear !
Father, here we shrink and tremble ;
Hold us not imprisoned here.

PATER SERAPHICUS

Rising still to higher circles,
On from strength to strength proceed,
Pure and silent growth ! God's Presence
Is the life on which you feed ;

This the Life-breath is of Spirits ;
Purity, Health, Truth is this.
Everlasting Love's revealing,
Blossoming of endless bliss.

CHOIR OF BLESSED BOYS [*circling round the highest
summit*]

Now ascend to higher circles,
Twining hand with happy hand !
Let the strength of happy feeling
Into song and dance expand.
Taught by God,
Faithful be !
Whom ye worship,
Ye shall see.

ANGELS [*floating in the higher atmosphere, bearing the
immortal part of FAUST*]

Rescued from the evil one,
This noble spirit see !
Him, who, unwearied, still strives on,
We have the power to free.
And on him breathing from above
If Love its part supply,
Heaven's host with welcomings of love,
Still meets him from on high.

THE YOUNGER ANGELS

See ! the purple roses borrowed
From the hands of pious women
Who had loved, and sinned and sorrowed ;
—Loved above all human measure,
Sinned and sorrowed and repented.
Theirs it was for heaven the treasure
To win home of that high spirit !
Theirs the mighty work to perfect.
On the grave we strewed the flowers,
And the bad ones shrank away—
Devils, watching for their prey,
Fled in terror, as the showers

Of the burning roses came.
 Torments, sharper than hell-flame,
 The old Satan-Master bore,
 —Love-pangs never felt before.

Shout aloud! The day is ours!

THE MORE PERFECT ANGELS

A something, that hath had its birth
 In clay, is to him clinging;
 The earthy would weigh down to earth
 The burthen we are bringing.

Upward we bear it,
 A heavy load, sure!
 Asbestos even were it,
 Yet were it not pure.
 The elements, together brought
 By a strong spirit's might,
 The dross into the pure ore wrought,
 No power of man or angel can
 Dissolve or disunite.
 The alien natures, bound by one
 Indissoluble heart,
 Love only, Love, Eternal Love—
 Can rend and keep apart.

THE YOUNGER ANGELS

Vapours round the rocky height
 Here are spreading rife;
 Cloudlets floating into light,
 Orbs of spirit-life.
 Near, and more near—the mists grow clear—
 I see a choir of blessed boys
 Up-weave their spiry flight.
 Children they! Earth's wrongs and cares,
 And tears and smiles, were never theirs.
 —Here in the fresh breeze frolicking,
 They would bathe them in the joys
 Of this new world, this heavenly spring.

Oh ! place him at the first
 With this exulting ring,
 To breathe in Heaven's own clime
 Sweet childhood's joy, a happy time ;
 Soon the rich flower to riper life will burst.

THE BLESSED BOYS

We welcome, in the infant mild,
 The angels' precious pledge,
 For heaven receive the little child
 Into our tutelage.

Oh ! break away the flakes of clay,
 The indurated crust,
 The slough and slime of care and crime
 That cling to human dust.

Already—look on him !—how fair
 He is—how great—how good !
 For now he breathes Heaven's holy air,
 And lives on angels' food.

DOCTOR MARIANUS [*in the highest, purest cell*]

Here the prospect is free !
 Here the spirit soars high !
 Shapes floating upwards
 Of females float by ;
 Midmost, all glorious,
 Shining serene,
 Crowned with the star-wreath,
 I see Heaven's Queen ! [*Enraptured*]

Over earth to Thee is given
 Empire ! Let me in the free
 Widespread tent of the blue heaven
 See Thy mystery.

Aid in man's heart what Thou of good,
 Of tender thought and earnest,
 Of holy love, in his best mood
 Up-breathed to Thee, discernest !

Dost Thou command it ? Ours is zeal
 And courage all-defying.
 Dost Thou breathe peace ? At once we feel
 The warlike impulse dying.

Virgin ! from all soil of sin,
 Virgin pure ! to Thee we bow ;
 Saintly Mother ! chosen Queen,
 One with the godlike Thou !

What light clouds surround that splendour ?
 Floating wind ! Oh ! these are they,
 Who, for that the heart was tender,
 Fondly loved and fell away :
 Round her knees they drink the ether,
 Round her knees for mercy pray.

Thy calm heart no breath hath shaken
 Of earth's passions ; yet to Thee
 Come all they, who have partaken
 Of earth's utter misery—
 They, who loved and were forsaken,
 Come to Thee confidingly !
 Oh ! fond and weak and light are they,
 And thus, by wild desires away
 Whirled onward, who can save
 Unaided ? who can rend the prey
 From passions that enslave ?
 The foot—oh ! how can it but slide
 On the slant surface—downward glide
 Where the ground slopes beneath ?
 Whom doth not smile and glance deceive ?
 Who doth not listen and believe
 When Flattery's accents breathe ?

THE MATER GLORIOSA [*hovers onward*]

CHOIR OF FEMALE PENITENTS

To the heavenliest heights as thou floatest away
 Of the kingdoms eternal, to thee do we pray—
 Thou that hast no peer !
 Thou that art rich in Grace ! Oh, mercifully hear !

MAGNA PECCATRIX

By the love that, disregarding
 Scornful pharisaic sneers,
 While Thy Son was beaming godhead,
 Bathed His feet with balmy tears ;
 By the odour-dropping unguent,
 Lavishing its treasured sweet ;
 By the tresses that so softly
 Wiped all dry His holy feet.

MULIER SAMARITANA

By the well that in the desert
 Watered Abram's herds of yore ;
 By the cup that to our Saviour's
 Parching lips its cool draught bore ;
 By the joy-diffusing fountain
 That still gushes pure and bright,
 While the stream of life eternal
 Through all worlds flows round in light.

MARIA ÆGYPTIACA

By the holy place of burial,
 Where the Lord's dead body lay ;
 By the arm that from the temple
 Warned and waved me thrice away ;
 By my forty years of penance
 In the solitary land ;
 By the blessed words of farewell
 That I wrote upon the sand.

THE THREE

Sinless ! to the chief of sinners
 Access Thou deniest never ;
 And earth's moment of repentance
 Hath its heavenly fruit for ever.
 To this good soul show like mercy,
 The offence in anger view not
 Of one moment of forgetting,
 Wilful thought of sin that knew not.

UNA PENITENTUM [*formerly named Margaret*]

Bend down to look on me ! Mother benign !
 None—none is like to Thee ! Mother benign !
 With Thy all-radiant countenance divine,
 Look on this joy of mine !
 The early-loved comes back—no trace—no taint—no
 stain—
 No grief—no wrongs remain ;
 The early-loved returns—is mine—is mine again !

BLESSED BOYS [*approaching in circular movements*]

Already he out-tops us all,
 The frame expands—the large limbs swell ;
 The nurture he from us receives,
 He will repay it well.
 No sounds from lower earth here reach
 Our hearts of love or strife ;
 But he hath heard, and he will teach
 To us, at birth removed from earth,
 The harmonies of life.

THE PENITENT [*formerly named Margaret*]

Circled by the loftiest spirits,
 One with them, behold him rise !
 Heaven he scarce hath breathed—in all things
 With the holy host he vies.
 From the old husk's earthly bondage,
 How he rends himself away !
 How his youth, renewed, rejoicing,
 Steps forth, clothed upon with ether,
 Radiant, into heavenly day !

Suffer me to teach, to guide him !
 The new day falls dazzlingly.

MATER GLORIOSA

Rise to higher spheres, and he
 Will feel 'tis Thou—will follow Thee !

DOCTOR MARIANUS [*adoring, prostrate*]

Look to the Saviour-glance !
All that repentant be.
Made meet by gratitude
For the inheritance
Of full beatitude.

May each better feeling in
Our hearts to Thee still tend !

Maiden ! Mother ! Gracious Queen !
Be with us to the end !

• CHORUS MYSTICUS

All we see before us passing
Sign and symbol is alone :
Here, what thought could never reach to
Is by semblances made known ;
What man's words may never utter,
Done in act—in symbol shown.
Love, whose perfect type is Woman,
The divine and human blending,
Love for ever and for ever
Wins us onward, still ascending.

THE END

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